

THE JOURNAL

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Sports Former El Cerrito High baseball star recovering from elbow surgery **[C1]**

Arts & Leisure Tamarindo finds a niche among upscale Mexican restaurants **[C8]**

"I began to realize that my time in prison didn't have to be a waste." — The Rev. James Tramel



REV. JAMES TRAMEL dresses for Mass on Aug. 10 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany. Tramel was ordained while in prison.

Ex-con now leads flock

Convicted of murder went to prison at 17, my pastor used 21 behind bars to find redemption

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

When members of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany met to choose a new pastor, a few were wary of James Tramel's background. And with good reason. It's not

every day a church selects a convicted murderer to be its leader.

"But as soon as you meet him, those fears just fall away," said Becky Osborn-Coolidge, a member of the search committee. "Besides, if you're a Christian, you have to believe in redemption."

Tramel's story of redemption took him from San Quentin, where at age 17 he was the prison's youngest inmate, to 16 years at Solano State Prison in Vacaville, where he was ordained a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church, to his selection this summer as the

interim pastor at St. Alban's.

While in Vacaville, Tramel founded St. Dismas Episcopal Chapel, named after one of the two thieves who, according to Christian tradition, were crucified with Jesus. The story of Dismas is one he loved to tell inmates.

The other thief, Gestas, taunted Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

But Dismas turned to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when you come into your kingly power." Jesus replied, "Truly I

say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

"He's the only person that the church is absolutely certain is a saint because Jesus said so," Tramel said. "Guys in prison feel excluded, but this story allows them to see that Christ is saying, 'No, no! You, too, are part of this communion.'"

In 1985, Tramel was attending an exclusive prep school in Santa Barbara when he and a classmate accosted a young man

See TRAMEL, Page A8



DONNA HARRIS has been the Alameda County Sheriff's Office commander of communitywide services for six months.

Perfect match' for sheriff's commander

Harris will become first black female to hold post in Sheriff's Office

By Chris Treadaway
STAFF WRITER

Something as small as a classmate can transform a person's life. Donna Harris was a single mother with a part-time job with the federal government when she began a small ad recruiting for the Alameda County Sheriff's Office. "It just kind of fell into it," said Harris, a Richmond native who

now lives in San Ramon.

That was 26 years ago. Today, at a ceremony in Dublin, Harris will become the first black female commander of the Sheriff's Office.

She has been acting commander of communitywide services for six months, but the ceremony will make it official. As one of five commanders in a department of 1,600, she will oversee such wide-ranging areas as the Office of Emergency Services, department field offices, homeland security, the county

See HARRIS, Page A8

Berkeley City College has a home at last

■ After three decades of conflict with Peralta board, new campus opens

By Martin Snapp
STAFF WRITER

The mood was positively giddy Tuesday morning as Berkeley City College President Judy Walters cut the ribbon to open the school's new six-story, \$70 million campus in downtown Berkeley. "Can you believe it?" Walters exulted as she embraced a grinning Mayor Tom Bates.

Bates' presence was more than *ex officio*. As a young assemblyman during the 1970s, he was a key player in the often bitter 32-year fight to force the Peralta Community College District to give Berkeley a campus of its own — a campaign that entailed lawsuits, picket lines and outright secession.

The loudest cheers of the day were for former president Barbara Beno, who paid the ultimate price for supporting the campaign: She was fired by the Peralta trustees in 2000, after 12 years on the job.

See COLLEGE, Page A8



AFTER 32 YEARS of leasing buildings, Berkeley City College celebrates a building of its own Tuesday. Attendees of the ribbon-cutting ceremony tour the new building.

Research firm to poll residents' views on taxes

■ City wants to know voters' preferences on parcel or sales tax, funding priorities

By Justin Hill
STAFF WRITER

El Cerrito resident Margie Myers says she doesn't like taxes. But she might vote for new

taxes if it meant a new senior center or library — both of which Myers said would be very beneficial.

"I have grandchildren, so I think the library would be beneficial for them," Myers said.

This is the kind of feedback the city is seeking.

On Monday night, the City Council authorized the city man-

ager to hire a market and public opinion research agency to conduct a resident survey for a potential tax initiative as well as an analysis of actual and projected voter turnout for 2006 and 2007.

The city is trying to ascertain residents' preferences between a parcel or sales tax, their funding priorities and the amount they

would be willing to pay for each of the projects, city manager Scott Hanin wrote in an e-mail to The Journal.

The voter turnout analysis will help council members determine the best timing for an initiative. It is too early to predict when an

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At the Library

■ Looking at experimental children's books in a new context. Page A5



Martin Snapp

■ Young sawyer a master at rare musical form. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Arts committee sets screening, meeting

The Albany Arts Committee is expected to officially launch its public art selection process for Albany parks with a showing of the documentary "Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision" at 7 p.m. on Monday at the Community Center Hall, 1249 Marin Ave.

The documentary is about sculptor and architect Maya Lin, who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the story behind the memorial and a decade of Lin's work.

The screening will be followed by an introduction to Albany's upcoming park art selection process and a question-and-answer session with the members of the art selection panels as well as the Arts Committee.

The Albany Arts Committee is commissioning public art in Ocean View Park, Terrace Park and Memorial Park as part of a larger city-wide parks renovation project.

Selection panels of arts professionals, residents, Arts Committee members and the city's park renovation project manager will choose the artists and artworks.

— Justin Hill

El Cerrito

Noted chemistry professor dies

Chester T. O'Konski, a UC Berkeley professor emeritus of chemistry who was one of the first chemists to study nucleic acids and proteins using physical chemistry methods, died at his home in El Cerrito on Aug. 2. He was 85.

In his 43 years on the faculty of the Department of Chemistry, O'Konski employed many methods to study the properties of large molecules.

"He was among the first physical and polymer chemists to apply high electric fields to solutions of biological materials (in order to study) the asymmetric properties resulting from the field," said John Hearst, professor emeritus of chemistry at UC Berkeley in a written statement.

The technique allowed examination of molecules as they existed in their natural state in solution, and it yielded new information about the size, structure, and optical and physical properties of molecules, according to a press release from the university.

— Craig Lazzaretti

Candidates forum on Aug. 29

The public is invited to the final El Cerrito Democratic Club candidates forum for the November election, taking place at 7 p.m. on Aug. 29 in the sanctuary of Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. across the street from El Cerrito High School.

Candidates for El Cerrito City Council, Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District Board, Kensington Fire Protection District Board, East Bay Municipal Utility District Ward 4, and East Bay Regional Park District Ward 1 have been invited. They will give opening and closing statements and answer written audience questions.

Candidates who are registered Democrats can seek endorsement, and ECDC members in good standing can vote to endorse candidates.

For more details contact Al Miller at amil2323@comcast.net or 510-526-4874.

— Chris Treadaway

Electronic recycling event scheduled

An electronic waste recycling event will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, and Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Department of Motor Vehicles, 6400 Manila Ave., in El Cerrito.

No appointment is needed, and the event is free to anyone, even those living outside the city.

Acceptable electronic waste includes computer components, televisions, VCRs and DVD players, fax machines, telephones, cell phones and mp3 players.

Appliances, batteries, microwaves, paints and pesticides will not be accepted. Those items can be taken to the Hazardous Waste Facility at 101 Pittsburgh Ave. in Richmond. Call 888-412-9277 for information about the hazardous waste facility. Call 888-832-9839 for information about the electronics recycling event.

— Alan Lopez

Opening planned for Cerrito Theater

The Cerrito Theater is expected to hold a grand opening the weekend of Sept. 30 or Oct. 7, after its renovation is completed on Sept. 7, redevelopment manager Lori Trevino said.

When it opens, the two-screen movie theater and cafe on San Pablo Avenue south of Central will be run by the owners of the successful Parkway Theater near Lake Merritt in Oakland.

The Parkway offers full meals and beer and wine, as well as cult movie nights, fund-raising events and the "baby brigade," screenings for parents and their little ones.

— Alan Lopez

CORRECTIONS

A story last week about candidates for the Albany City Council election contained an error. The two candidates endorsed by Citizens for the Albany Shoreline are not a retired economist who is open-minded about development at Golden Gate Fields, and a real estate agent who wants a balance of open space and development.

Stories that appeared July 21 and Aug. 18 about litigation against Pacific Steel Casting Co. contained an error. The West Berkeley Alliance is not part of the suit filed by Communities for a Better Environment.

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ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

TUESDAY, AUG. 15

■ **HOME INTRUSION** — At about 4 p.m., someone described as an Hispanic man, about 30 years old, 5-foot-9, weighing 180 pounds entered a residence on the 900 block of Neilson Street, scaring the occupant, who was talking to her husband on the phone. When she screamed and the call was disconnected the husband called the Albany police. When officers arrived the man was gone. The woman said that the man made the excuse that he was in the wrong house and left. Officers are investigating.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN** — During the night someone stole a red 2004 Toyota Corolla out of a garage at 555 Pierce St. There were no witnesses.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — Officers arrested a 25-year-old Berkeley woman on Cleveland Avenue near Interstate 80 for an outstanding warrant for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

THURSDAY, AUG. 17

■ **DRUG POSSESSION** — At about 12:30 a.m. officers stopped a white 1993 Ford Taurus near Gilman Street and Sixth Street for a vehicle code violation. They arrested the driver, a 22-year-old Hercules man, on suspicion of driving without a license.

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN** — During the early morning hours someone stole a black 2006 Toyota Camry parked on the 1100 block of Brighton Avenue.

■ **OUTSTANDING WARRANT** — At about 8:30 a.m. officers arrested a 29-year-old Albany man on the 700 block of Pomona Avenue for an outstanding Contra Costa County warrant for DUI.

■ **NO BAIL WARRANT** — Officers arrested an 18-year-old Albany man on the 600 block of Key Route Boulevard for an outstanding no bail warrant for DUI.

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■ **SATURDAY, AUG. 19**
■ **MULTIPLE BREAK-INS** — During

SHAROL NELSON-EMBRY
Park It

cle parking fee. For more information, call 510-795-9385.

If you're looking for outdoor fun on Sunday, Ardenwood Historic Farm is just across the road from Coyote Hills in Fremont. Ardenwood, a re-creation of East Bay farm life in the late 1800s, is hosting a variety of activities throughout the day for all ages. From 1-3 p.m. delight in "Lovely Ladies Croquet" where elegant volunteers demonstrate this very Victorian game. You can also crank ice cream between 1 and 2 p.m., and then consume the results.

Learn about the medicinal properties of plants in the garden from 1:30-2:30 p.m., then prepare the bounty of the harvest for home. From 3:30-4:30 p.m., observe our closest star, the sun, with a host of sun-safe observation tools.

Ardenwood is at 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont. There is a park entry fee of \$5 per adult, \$4 per senior, \$3.50 per child (ages 4-17), and kids under 4 years are free. There is no parking fee. For more information, contact the park at 510-796-0663.

You have several chances to explore one of our regional park islands in the Bay before the summer is over. Historically used by Ohlone Indians who paddled from the Bay shoreline for birds returning on their fall migration as well as look for summer birds and resident species. This is a guided bird-watching experience for all levels from beginning to experienced birders.

Bring your binoculars or call ahead to borrow a pair. Wear sunscreen and bring water and a snack. For information, call

Brooks Island has a fascinating history, and offers unique views of the surrounding mainland. Two kayak trips to Brooks Island, guided by outfitters and regional park naturalists, are planned: Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The trips depart from the Richmond Marina, and include paddling instruction, all paddling equipment, and a naturalist-guided, two-mile hike around the island. You provide your own clothing, lunch, water and snacks.

Whichever trip you choose, the fee is \$85 for the day (\$95 for residents outside of Alameda/Contra Costa Counties); participants must be at least 14 years old. Register at 510-636-1684 or at www.ebparks.org.

Late summer is a great time to learn more about local bird life with expert naturalists in the parks. On Tuesday, Aug. 29, early birders can meet naturalist Bethany Facendini from 7-9:30 a.m. at Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline in Richmond. You'll scan the Bay shoreline for birds returning on their fall migration as well as look for summer birds and resident species. This is a guided bird-watching experience for all levels from beginning to experienced birders.

Bring your binoculars or call ahead to borrow a pair. Wear sunscreen and bring water and a snack. For information, call

the Tilden Nature Area at 525-2233. Registration required to participate.

In the eastern part of Costa County, a bird program, guided by Mike Moran, will be Thursday, Aug. 31, at 9 a.m. at Round Valley Preserve south of

Round Valley. The program is a mix of habitats, it is a haven for many species. You can learn about songbirds, and maybe even dogs. Dogs are not allowed. Valley is as it is a semi-homestead and home to the San Joaquin kit fox. The program is free, but registration is required; please call 1684 to reserve your place.

I'm pleased to take

"Park It" for Ned Mazzoni while he is away. I look forward to updating you about activities, species and the natural and cultural history of our East Bay Regional Parks in the months. Until next time, I hope you find time to explore our regional parks!

Sharol Nelson-Embry is a peregrine naturalist at the Cove Visitor Center in Alameda. She is currently leaving from her regular writing the week "It" column. Contact her at sharol@alameda.org.

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■ **MONDAY, AUG. 21**
■ **DUI** — At about 12:15 a.m. officers stopped a white 2000 Dodge on Buchanan Street and found a vehicle code violation in the driver, a 37-year-old man, on suspicion of DUI.

■ **BIKES STOLEN** — A woman reported that a man was taking three or four bicycles on the 700 block of Pablo Avenue. The suspect was described as a white male, 20-30, with a build and gray hair. He was driving away in a red Toyota.

■ **ROBBERY** — An Albany man reported that at about 3:45 p.m., some juveniles were the victims of an attempted strong-arm robbery while walking on Masonic Avenue near the El Cerrito Plaza. They were described as three black male juveniles, about 13 to 16 years old. One was wearing a red shirt and the other two were wearing black T-shirts. They were last seen walking north on Masonic toward El Cerrito Plaza and were gone when officers arrived.

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Park activities range from music to kayaking

THE NEXT SEVERAL days are chock full of exciting options to enjoy the waning days of summer and your East Bay regional parks. The Heritage Days Music Festival — a free special event at Coyote Hills in Fremont — is Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. The festival combines exciting entertainment along with opportunities to participate in fun, educational activities, and highlights the rich cultural mix of the East Bay.

The main-stage entertainment, emceed by KFRC radio station personalities, begins at noon with The Mossy Creek Band playing toe-tapping bluegrass. At 1 p.m., Kaweh brings Brazilian music with Flamenco and Middle Eastern influences to the stage. Layce Baker and the Black Diamond Band play at 2 p.m., with classic rock and roll and some blues tunes. Finishing up at 3 p.m., Rafael Manriquez and Grupo Amanante provide a mix of Andean and Peruvian music along with the sunny sounds of the Caribbean and Mexico.

You can try your hand at making piñatas, folding origami, or creating a tule basket — a traditional Native American art. You'll also have opportunities to meet a snake and tour the beautiful butterfly garden, perhaps getting ideas for attracting butterflies to your own garden with nectar plants. Coyote Hills is at 8000 Patterson Road, Fremont. Note that there is a \$5 per-vehicle parking fee. For more information, call 510-795-9385.

If you're looking for outdoor fun on Sunday, Ardenwood Historic Farm is just across the road from Coyote Hills in Fremont. Ardenwood, a re-creation of East Bay farm life in the late 1800s, is hosting a variety of activities throughout the day for all ages. From 1-3 p.m. delight in "Lovely Ladies Croquet" where elegant volunteers demonstrate this very Victorian game. You can also crank ice cream between 1 and 2 p.m., and then consume the results.

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the night, several cars were broken into: a green 1997 Honda parked on the 1200 block of Dartmouth Street, a gray 1993 Nissan 4-Door parked on the 1000 block of Key Route Boulevard, a black Honda parked on the 1200 block of Santa Fe Avenue, a blue 1997 Honda parked on the 900 block of Evelyn Avenue, a blue 1997 Honda parked on the 1100 block of Key Route Boulevard.

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EDITOR• CRAIG LAZZERETTI

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIALS**Efficient bridge plan**

WE'VE BEEN GIVEN plenty of warning. The Bay Bridge eastbound, coming into Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito and points east (Orinda, Walnut Creek, Concord, etc.), will be closed over Labor Day weekend. That's Sept. 2, 3 and 4. From 11:59 p.m. Friday Sept. 1 until 5 a.m. Sept. 4, the lower deck of the bridge will be unavailable to vehicles. How incredibly inconvenient. But also how incredibly efficient.

By closing for these three days, other weekend closures will be avoided, which would have been more time-consuming, and considering the Bay Area calendar, more disruptive.

Other weekends in September and October are loaded with major events. Labor Day weekend traffic across the bridge tends to be lower than a typical weekend, and with commuter traffic missing on the holiday, it's the best Monday to close the bridge.

For those who must go into and return from the city, San Francisco is not unreachable; it will just require more planning on the part of the traveler.

Other bridges are available to get drivers to the peninsula, but expect heavier traffic. Also, let's not forget our blessings of public transportation.

BART and the ferry lines from Oakland and Vallejo will be running expanded schedules, including overnight service to some stations via BART. AC Transit and Muni have modified their schedules.

Not always the best planners, Caltrans along with other Bay Area transit agencies have taken many factors into account to come to this decision and keep things running as smoothly as possible.

Finally, they are concerned about costs, schedules and impact on the community. Now it requires a little forethought and planning on our part.

A new school year

Another school year is already upon us as local students will be returning to the classroom in the next few weeks. The beginning of the school year offers a reminder of the opportunities our education system provides to our future leaders, and of the challenges and obstacles that stand in their way.

Our community is blessed with many quality schools that are served by hardworking, committed educators. They will work hard again this year to provide our children with the tools and guidance they need to successfully navigate adolescence and become productive members of society.

At the same time, it's important to remember that teachers and principals can only do so much, and that entire communities must play a part in creating an environment that nurtures the emotional, intellectual and physical growth of our children.

Even at top-performing schools, students are not immune to the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse. The pressure to excel can take a heavy mental toll on students. And the stabbing death of El Cerrito High School student Juan Ramos at an unsupervised Berkeley hills party earlier this year illustrates how easily young people can find themselves in dangerous situations.

So let's give our children the support, encouragement and guidance they need as they prepare to embark on a new school year that is sure to be filled with much promise and some peril.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**Assembly**

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-519-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94550, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone: 510-891-7143; fax: 510-234-7689.

Steg Sanitary District

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dct.ca.us.

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94550.

NUMBERS YOU SHOULD KNOW**City government**

ALBANY: City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave. 510-528-5710.

Mayor Allan Maris

City Council — Meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays at the City Hall Council Chamber.

Community Development — Includes planning, building and maintenance. 510-528-5760

Web site: www.albanyca.org

EL CERRITO

City Hall, 10890 San Pablo Ave. 510-215-4300.

Mayor Janet Abelson

City Council — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the

first and third Mondays in the Garden Room of the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. 510-215-4305.

Public Works — Report problems with city trees and sidewalks, burned-out street lights, potholes and clogged storm drains. 510-215-4302.

Recycling Center — 7501 Schmidt Lane, 510-215-4350.

Web site: www.el-cerrito.org

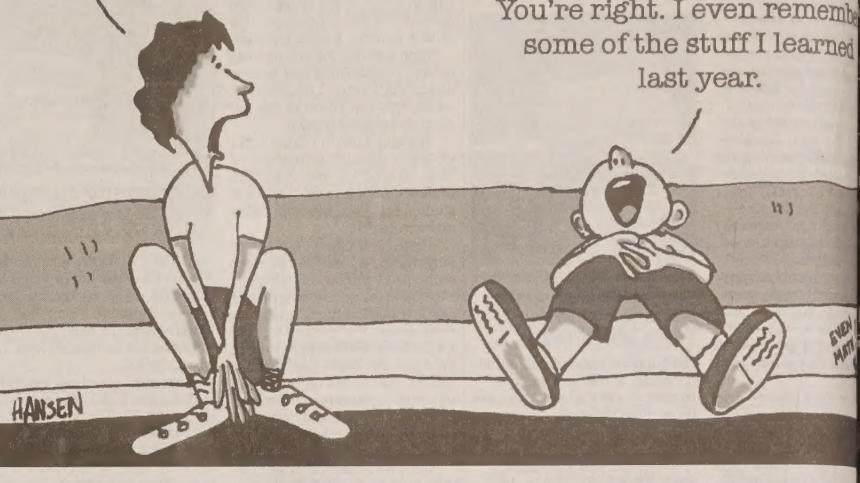
KENSINGTON

Municipal Advisory Council — Meets at 7:30 p.m. the last Tuesday of each month in the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave. Addresses zoning and land-use issues. 510-526-5546.

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

MANY SCHOOLS ARE STARTING EARLY THIS YEAR

This sure seemed like a short summer.



You're right. I even remember some of the stuff I learned last year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Opt in for uniforms**

When my 9-year-old daughter wears her uniform to Madera Elementary for the first time on Monday, she'll be doing it for a couple of reasons.

She knows her friends Alina and Regina have always worn uniforms to their public school in Pasadena and they don't mind their uniforms. Also, their mom is always saying how easy it is to get ready for school, shop for school, do laundry, etc.

We've had talks at home about schools. Now she understands her school doesn't exist all by itself, it's part of a larger group of schools, taken care of by the school board.

The board has the difficult job of taking care of lots of schools, all very different from one another, including some schools that have lots of problems compared to her school.

The school board has decided uniforms will help students in all schools; that they will be more successful because they are a way to help kids concentrate on books instead of looks.

My daughter understands we're a part of a team, the West County team. Our family will opt in for uniforms because that's one way we can support the whole team, so every student has the best chance at being successful.

I urge all West County parents to join us and "opt in" for uniforms!

Joanna Pace
El Cerrito

Some real facts

While I respect the idea that people of good will may disagree with those who favor thoughtful redevelopment of the waterfront, I deplore the recent misstatements of facts.

The proposed developer has never attempted, as some have stated, to make us believe we cannot survive without his "mega-mall and big money." I challenge anyone to find such a quote from the developer.

Incidentally, the term "mega-mall" is highly inaccurate. Discussions ranged in the vicinity of 400,000 square feet of retail — roughly the same size as the Sierra Club proposal and perhaps one-tenth of an actual "mega-mall."

Expanded gambling never has been part of current discussions regarding development. The best way to get expanded gambling is to close all other options.

Councilwoman Jewel Okawachi's motion was not to have the city guarantee an outcome in Rick Caruso's favor. It simply stated that once an application was submitted, a full EIR would be completed (including the study of alternative plans) prior to a Measure C vote. That seems pretty reasonable.

Redevelopment of the Golden Gate Fields parking lot would not cut the Eastshore Park down the middle any more than the waterfront development in Berkeley does. That is empty rhetoric and ignores the huge enlargement of open space the redevelopment plans would make possible — including the completion of the Bay Trail through Albany.

I'm perfectly willing to debate the planning issues, on a factual level, as we contemplate the future of our waterfront. I'm not so thrilled to be confronted by a cam-

paign of misinformation.

Some want Golden Gate Fields to just go away and be replaced by a park, regardless of the financial realities. That's fine; the proponents of this position should just say so.

Others (and I am one), feel privately financed redevelopment of the Golden Gate Fields property could provide vastly improved open space, expanded tax base for city services and schools, protection of the shoreline, safeguards to creeks and wetlands, and just maybe a great place to enjoy a relaxing evening of shopping, entertainment or dining in our own community.

Howard McNenny
Albany

McNenny is the chairman of Albany Waterfront Coalition.

A missed chance

The improvements Caruso Affiliates had planned for the Albany waterfront at Golden Gate Fields would have been a terrific asset to the city.

Those improvements would have provided further shopping, entertainment and restaurants, which would have enhanced the area and brought in a beach front, boating, fishing, and many other facets of enjoyment. But now it is all down the drain.

We would have had these improvements right at our doorstep instead of driving miles in bumper-to-bumper traffic on our congested highways.

Albany has no industries to help with taxes. The largest source is Golden Gate Fields, which would have contributed even more taxes; but we let the project get away.

Caruso tried in every way to comply with the residents' requests by holding meetings with them.

The income from taxes would have contributed greatly to improve the city's problems, but now it is too late. Will the City Council ever learn?

Les Pickles
Albany

Uniforms would be a good thing

Parents of children in the West Contra Costa school district, please don't "opt out" of the new uniform requirement.

Some parents resent the district mandated uniforms without extensive prior debate. But this mandate didn't waste tax

WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and guest commentaries reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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money or favor any one school. And forms aren't experimental; this "new" more than 10 years old.

Maybe some think uniforms are necessary in your school, e.g., Kenton Elementary, where we don't have a problem with gang colors.

There are other ways a uniform appearance may help level the playing field. For example, I think my child's attire perfectly reflects her independent, creative and charming personality. I could hardly blame a teacher for her as an unkempt urchin from a chaotic, perhaps neglectful, household.

In uniform, she will still radiate independence, creativity and charm, and teacher will see those qualities and be attracted by her fashion statements. As I assume everyone already knows, she can help the "have-nots" cope with "haves," both of which can be found in Kensington.

I have even heard parents plan to out because their child simply doesn't want to wear uniforms. If they can't afford them, perhaps the school might be able to help.

School rules often appear arbitrary and tiresome when viewed out of context. But collectively, enforced consistently and fairly, they create a safe, comfortable environment conducive to learning — precisely the role of schools.

So please, unless you have some found philosophical position on the matter, chronically between fashion and education, simplify everyone's life. Get a uniform and let's get on with it.

Sylvia G. Koenig
Kensington

Fought with honor

While Hezbollah foot soldiers were decimated in a war they provoked, their paunchy, bearded leaders dressed up in ridiculous clerical robes made apocalyptic pronouncements in Damascus and Tehran, about Lebanon being an Israeli graveyard.

While many Israeli soldiers died in recent fighting, they fought with honor. Hezbollah terrorists, using their wives and children and neighbors as human shields, maneuvered the rubble-strewn landscape like rats and fired unguided rockets from crowded urban areas in a deliberate attempt to maim and kill Jewish civilians.

Many expressed surprise at the way with which the denizens of Southern Lebanon are returning to their war-torn, aged enclaves, but the reason is that Hezbollah commanded them to do so in order to provide cover for Islamic fundamentalists licking their wounds. And they are picking up the reconstruction tab to maintain these human shields in place.

It is a big mistake on Israel's part to let the Shia return to the area surrounding the Litani River. The United States and Israel must embrace a realpolitik approach to any Muslim population that is explicit in terror: Dump them in refugee camps, located where they can't cause trouble only for themselves, like Hezbollah, and the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees.

Greg Engle
El Cerrito

Barney forces examination of viewers' expectations



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
At the Library

in the past two decades, Barney has created a universe using a multitude of media, from sculpture to drawing and photography to his careful recent art history, the human and biological development of his work reveals a keen sense of process and the evolution of form.

From SF MOMA brochure, Matthew Barney: Drawing Re-3-23-9.17.06

ENTLY WENT TO THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART IN SAN FRANCISCO. THERE I WALKED FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR, EVEN ACROSS THAT BEAUTIFUL BRIDGE WHICH BRINGS ME A

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HANA JAPAN STEAK HOUSE

off by what I was seeing, because the first room I visited was mainly video screens hanging from the ceiling, playing short videos of the artist in his studio. I kept telling myself it was simply a form of performance art and that I should be more open-minded and willing to accept a new kind of artistic expression.

However, when I moved into the larger rooms, where masses of what looked like ice were mounted, carved, shaped and positioned, I started to understand the attraction of this man's work. The bright lighting, the size of the pieces and something else — the art of it all — moved and pressed on

me, leaving me with thoughts and feelings I hadn't expected.

So, what does this have to do with libraries and books? Well, it made me think about the experimental children's books I have seen over the years — in particular, David Wiesner's "The Three Little Pigs." When I first saw this book, I was taken aback and not really sure I liked it. The story begins the way most "Three Little Pigs" stories do: the

little pigs go out to seek their fortune. But after that it becomes a story within a story — or maybe I should say, a story outside of a story. Because when the wolf blows down the first little pig's house, he blows so hard he blows the pig out of the story. As the tale continues, the other pigs leave, too — confusing the wolf, who can't find them anywhere. It is an amazingly inventive book and I recommend taking a look at it.

But the real question for me is whether or not this is a book that children will respond to. Is it just a clever idea or does it

make them think about illustrations and art and stories in a different way? Is it one-time entertainment or is it a book they will return to, again and again? Because if it holds them and challenges them — the way Barney's work held me — then I would consider it art. If not — well, I don't know what it is.

I know the idea of experimental art, whether it is sculpture, music or a children's book, is a huge topic, encompassing years of passionate

See WINKELSTEIN, Page A8

rush of vertigo if I accidentally look down past my feet to the floor far below.

One of the exhibits I saw was Matthew Barney's "Drawing Restraint" — a combination of work that is difficult to categorize or even describe. I had been warned that it is different, and that it is. Initially, I was put

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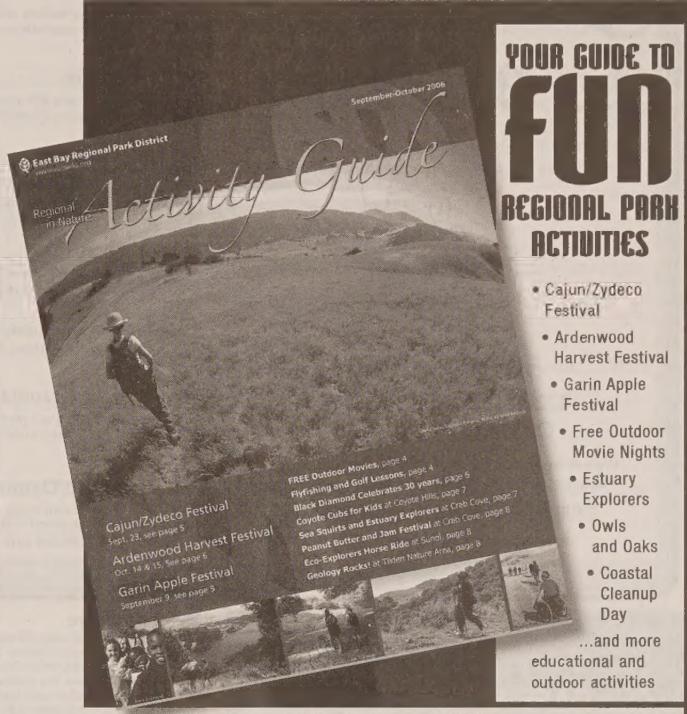
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Jesus Diaz Y Su QBA
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La Familia Son
Joel Dorham
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Coldblood
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JAZZ, LATIN
AND BLUES

sunday

september 3, 2006
Rickie Lee Jones
the subdues
Calexico
The Bittersweets
Goapele
Temptations Revue
w/Cleve Jones & Al Boyd
Klymaxx
w/Cheryl Cooley
Carolyn Brandy w/
Ojalá
Jason Walker
Girlyman
Café R&B
... and many more!

ROCK, R&B,
LOST AND
BLUES

monday

september 4, 2006
Angie Stone
Wayman Tisdale
Fatburger
Christián
Edwin Hawkins' Gospel Showcase
Phoenix & Afterbuffalo
Mo' Rockin' Project
Jesse "I Can Do Bad By Myself" James
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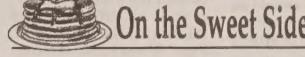
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Grits	\$2.25
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Viva Voce Café

As a compliment to La Veranda Café in Clayton, CA, which has enjoyed a great reputation for four years strong, Viva Voce Café opened its doors three months ago in Montclair and we are enjoying it in a great deal. Viva Voce Café is an inviting restaurant with friendly service and a refreshing atmosphere - offering a well-diversified affordable menu that you can enjoy every evening, along with a variety of seafood and menu specials of the highest quality. As quoted by Diablo Magazine: "This is no spaghetti-and-red-sauce throwback. The quality of food sets it apart." Or about our homemade Gnocchi: "I take an inventory of each little dumpling, as the parmesan cheese begins to melt. I eat all of them, then use my dumpling to wipe up every drop of sauce."

Café Enrico

Since 1978, 875 Island Drive, Alameda (510) 522-0128
For fine Italian dining at its best, visit Café Enrico overlooking the beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon. Full bar service features special cocktails daily with exceptional wine selections. From gourmet seafood plates to Old World pastas, chicken dishes, sandwiches and even a dieter's menu, Café Enrico truly offers something to please everyone. In fact, many guests dine in two and three times a week. House specialty steamer (Manila clams and fresh seafood cooking) are not to be missed. Café Enrico is open daily Saturday and Sunday brunch is served until 3 p.m., and Early Bird Specials (\$10.95) are served Monday through Friday until 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday until 5 p.m. For reservations, please call (510) 522-0129. MC, Visa, AMEX, handicap access. Casual attire.

Katsu Sushi

1465 Webster Street, Alameda (510) 749-8461
West Alameda's newest restaurant, Katsu Sushi, invites guests to an upscale dining experience with classic simplicity. Chef Sang Kim prepares all dishes from scratch, and seafood is brought in fresh, directly from Japan. The menu is extensive, ranging from an extraordinary selection of sushi and sashimi, Udon/Soba, Donburi (over rice dishes), to pasta and an impressive variety of sake. Architect Duk Lee has created a dramatic backdrop for guests, marrying modern art with traditional design elements. Attention to even the most minor aesthetic detail is also mirrored in the elegant presentation of Katsu's dishes, offerings that are as much a work of art to the palate as to the eye. Katsu is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner is served Monday through Thursday and on Sunday from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Reservations recommended.

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant

MOVED TO NEW LOCATION
1148 Ballena Blvd., Alameda (510) 865-5088
Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good home-style cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the popular early bird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water, and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner. Dinner served 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Sushi House

2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda, California 94511
www.e-sushihouse.com
510-865-0999
fax: 510-865-2404
Avoid waiting! Fax in your order in advance!

When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals and out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses with unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings is chef/owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobiko and cucumber; and "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna and halibut deep fried with house special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John and Salle Crisitendren agreed that "James is a real artist, and his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted." Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip and trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VS \$5

El Caballo

891B Island Drive (Harbor Bay Island), Alameda (510) 521-4032
Family-owned El Caballo Mexican Restaurant has had a long-standing reputation for preparing delicious traditional dishes from scratch using nothing but the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. El Caballo is famous for its Especialidades De Mariscos (seafood specialties) including Paella, Enchiladas, Cabo San Lucas, and many others. In addition to delicious seafood entrees, El Caballo offers an impressive menu of Mexican favorites to please every palate. The family and staff at El Caballo have made it their utmost priority to offer you, their guests, a pleasant and relaxing dining experience. You are invited to enjoy authentic Mexican dining with a view over beautiful Harbor Bay Lagoon.

Fentons Creamery

4226 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, CA 94611 (510) 658-7000
The most important meal of the day now includes ice cream! Join us for breakfast Friday, Saturday and Sunday! We are serving thick Belgian waffles (best topped with ice cream), pancakes, French toast, oatmeal, granola, home fries, grits, potato pancakes, heavily hashed corned beef, turkey sausage and so much more! We also feature a special breakfast menu for kids. Fentons Creamery is a retro soda fountain that showcases daily ice cream production and sundae-making. Founded in 1894, this community treasure has served generations its famous handcrafted ice creams and sauces. Open 11 a.m. until 11 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to Midnight on Friday and Saturday; 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Sunday.

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El Caballo

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(510) 748-1688

College

FROM PAGE A1

"That was a real blow, but the sorrow has long since dissipated," she said. "It's been replaced by a great satisfaction that something important has been done."

Over the years the school has had several names: Berkeley Learning Pavilion, Peralta College for Non-Traditional Studies, Vista Community College and — since June 1 of this year — Berkeley City College.

Until this week it was a "college without walls," holding classes in more than 200 rented locations, including churches, schools, storefronts, basements, the Oakland Army Base and the West Berkeley YMCA.

The 160,000-square-foot campus, designed by the Ratcliff architectural firm of Emeryville, is a single building located a half-block from the downtown Berkeley BART station and AC Transit lines.

"It's the prototype urban campus of the future," said Brougham. "Those sprawling suburban campuses are a thing of the past."

Located in the middle of downtown, BCC has no lawns or trees. But it has many features it never had in the past, including classrooms, computer labs, auditorium, library, bookstore, stu-

dent union, and faculty and administrative offices.

"We actually have more room than we need this semester, so we can reserve the equivalent of an entire floor for future expansion," said Walters.

The design features state-of-the-art heating, air conditioning and waste disposal technology that has already earned it "Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design" certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

But the crowning glory of the building at 2050 Center St. is the monumental six-story central atrium, topped by a massive elliptical skylight that lets natural light suffice into every corner. "We don't have a green field, and we're bounded on three sides by other buildings," explained lead architect Crodd Chin. "The atrium not only gives us daylight, it also gives us a quadrangle, which is the social heart of the campus."

The atrium's impressive impact was intentional.

"We wanted to install a sense of pride in the students," said Chin.

Mission accomplished.

"This building says to me, 'We're here to stay,'" said student senator Karen Cotton. "But it also says, 'You're important.'"

In counterpoint to the atrium, other elements are scaled to human size, including informal meeting areas scattered throughout the building.

her to Augsburg, Germany, where Harris completed high school.

Upon returning to the United States, Harris earned a degree from Contra Costa College in San Pablo.

While working as a sheriff's deputy, she completed her studies with a degree in public administration from the University of San Francisco in 2000. She earned a master's degree in the same discipline from St. Mary's College last year.

Needless to say, Harris' mother, Marian Bartlow of El Cerrito, is proud.

"She's been through the mill, but she's quite a girl," Bartlow said.

Off the job, Harris is a lead soloist in the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir.

"She has an incredible singing voice," Maggini said. "It's a God-given gift the likes of which I've rarely heard."

She also teaches adult traffic school and periodically teaches for the Alameda County Police Academy.

Harris, who said she plans to serve with the Sheriff's Office until she retires, recommends her profession without hesitation, but she said it's not for people looking for positive reinforcement from the public.

"Very often it can be a thankless job," she said. "You can't desire accolades, because those are not usually forthcoming."

Her advice for young people?

"Essentially that if you believe in yourself and your surround yourself with supportive people, you can be successful," she said.

"You need people who are not afraid to tell you you are wrong and who stand by you even as you correct what's wrong."

Today's ceremony is at 2 p.m. at the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services, 4985 Broder Blvd., Dublin.

have taken this on. I appreciate that they don't underestimate a child's ability to laugh at skewed reality or to be challenged. And I appreciate that modern artists give us the chance to reexamine our expectations and perhaps expand our understanding of the world.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@aclibrary.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 Ext. 20.

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Tramel

FROM PAGE A1

named Michael Stephenson in a local park.

For no reason, the classmate pulled out a knife and stabbed Stephenson 17 times. Tramel did nothing to stop him, nor did he try to help Stephenson as he lay dying. All he did was go back to his dorm and bet a friend \$50 that there was a dead body in the park.

Sixteen hours later, Tramel was arrested. He was tried, convicted and sentenced to 15 years to life.

He was 17, and his life was over — or so he thought. He says he hated himself, and he was sure God hated him, too.

His first stop was San Quentin. He remained there for four years until he was transferred to Vacaville, where he spent the next 16 years.

At San Quentin, he volunteered for The Squires, a "scared straight" program for at-risk teenagers. Since he was barely older than they were, they listened to him more than they would to older convicts.

"I had a real impact on them, and that made a big impact on me," he said. "I began to realize that my time in prison didn't have to be a waste."

Since many inmates were dying from AIDS and other diseases, he volunteered for the prison hospice program. One night in 1993, a guard woke him and said, "You're needed in the hospice."

An inmate named Steve was dying from stomach cancer. Tramel comforted him as best he

BIOGRAPHY

■ WHO: The Rev. James Russell Tramel

■ AGE: 38

■ OCCUPATION: Interim pastor at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany

■ RESIDENCE: Albany

■ EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in business administration from Thomas Edison State College in Trenton, N.J., 1996. Master of Theological Studies from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, 2003.

■ PERSONAL: Married the Rev. Stephanie Green on June 30.

■ CLAIMS TO FAME: Ordained deacon in the Episcopal Church on July 4, 2004. Ordained priest June 18, 2005.

could. Then Steve asked him the question that changed his life: "James, what do you believe?"

The answer came from Tramel's heart: "I really believe God loves us beyond measure."

Steve said, "James, that's what I want." He asked Tramel to baptize him — which he did, using water from the sink.

Then Steve died in his arms. Tramel has never been the same since.

"My life is no longer my own," he said.

He threw himself into prison activities — organizing victim/offender reconciliation groups, recording for the blind and conducting pizza sales among the inmates to raise money for Bay Area Women Against Rape.

He began studying by mail for the ministry. During his studies, he met and fell in love with a felon.

households in early September.

Laura Martinengo, branch librarian for the El Cerrito Library, said the branch would be better able to serve residents with a newer, updated building.

"There's just not a lot of room for growth," she said of the current building. "It's very cramped."

The library, which was last renovated in 1960, does not have enough seating or computers, Martinengo said, and lacks good space for programming activities.

The Open House Senior Center also has space problems.

The center was last expanded about 25 years ago and use has grown tremendously since, said Ellen Paasch, adult programs supervisor of the center.

The center has had to rotate some of its classes, holding one while stopping another, and the shared areas and public places of the center can be noisy.

The bulk of the "no" votes apparently came from owners of properties with businesses and multifamily residential units.

Votes were weighted according to how much each property owner was asked to pay.

But, the potential initiative would be a very different type of tax and type of election, Hanin said.

And it would address city needs, he said.

The biggest projects are repairing, resurfacing and rebuilding streets as well as new public safety, library and senior center buildings, Hanin said.

"The city has a number of significant unfunded needs and (it) needs to prioritize where available funds go and identify potential new sources of revenue since we do not have the funds to do everything," he said.

The El Cerrito Redevelopment Agency may be able to cover about half the total costs of the new facilities, but would not cover street work, he said.

Hanin said he hoped Godbe Research will begin conducting the 15-minute survey of 600

residents Kim Lee said she would favor a tax increase to pay for all those projects.

"If you invest in what people need, everyone reaps benefits," she said.

Resident Kim Lee said she would favor a tax increase to pay for all those projects.

"They're certainly not at the level we'd like to see."

For the foreseeable future — unless there is some other outside funding — the city would need a sales tax increase or another initiative to get the pavement condition index to 70, King said.

Resident Kim Lee said she

would favor a tax increase to pay for all those projects.

"If you invest in what people

need, everyone reaps benefits,"

she said.

At least one person

would have an idea of what's going on.

Reach Justin Hill at (415) 3578 or jhill@sfchronicle.com

at Good Shepherd when he moved to replace the Rev. who retired in June.

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WEEKLY SALES CAN BE FOUND IN THIS SECTION STARTING ON PAGE B8.

Real Estate

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Advertising supplement to The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Montclarion, The Piedmonter

How many inspections are enough?

It doesn't always do

RENTAL NEWS

Buyers have inspections done to conclude a purchase. However, recommendations for further investigations are overlooked and can have serious consequences.

The home inspector recommended that an engineer inspect the foundation. The buyer heeded this advice. After the inspection, they began to worry about the unevenness in the house. The buyer consulted with an engineer and told them that the foundation was faulty and that the house was moving.

The engineering inspection was done during the inspection period, the buyer could have negotiated a lower price with the sellers. Details on how the contract was breached are not clear.

There are several reasons why buyers don't execute further inspections. One is the cost.

Spending several hundred dollars or more to make sure you're making a wise investment is minimal when you consider the cost of correcting serious problems. In both of the examples above, the remedies cost thousands of dollars.

Another reason buyers forego recommended inspections is lack of time. The time frame for inspection contingencies is negotiable between the buyer and seller. Sellers like to see the shortest contingency period possible.

This can boomerang on the seller if it means the buyers don't have sufficient time to complete due diligence investigations.

HOUSE HUNTING TIP: If you need more time for inspections, ask the sellers for an extension.

One way to sweeten the request

is to remove your inspection contingency subject to an extension

of time to complete specific further inspections. This way the sellers know that you're generally satisfied with the condition of the property, but need more time before removing the contingency altogether.

In some cases, further inspections can be expensive. Some buyers don't proceed because they are short of funds and don't want to spend them on what might be a losing proposition.

In this case, before giving up,

you might ask the sellers to share the expense. If the issue in question is new information that the sellers were unaware of when they put the house on the market, they might be receptive to this approach to resolving the problem.

Home inspection reports are often loaded with disclaimers and recommendations to consult with other licensed professionals. The key is to determine which of these recommendations must be done.

THE CLOSING: Contact the

home inspector directly and ask

him to distinguish a cautionary note

from a strong recommendation.

DIAN HYMER

House Hunting



DIAN HYMER
House Hunting

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Dian Hymer is a Realtor, author

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Real Estate Spotlight:

Modern Mediterranean in dramatic canyon



THIS MAGNIFICENT NEW HOME at 7075 Skyline Blvd. in Oakland's Montclair district is ideally situated minutes away from Montclair Village and Highway 24, steps from the Huckleberry Botanic Gardens, and just a quarter mile to the Robert Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve. Set atop a breathtaking canyon, the property enjoys unobstructed views of the Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco and the bay. Designed to bring the view to every room, this four-level, four-bedroom (plus study and den), five-and-a-half-bath residence looks out through charming groupings of Craftsman-style windows. A beautiful, flexible open floor plan flows out to large decks on two levels. Streaming sunlight illuminates inlaid hardwood floors, 10-foot ceilings, and inspiring rooms that provide a perfect showplace for your art collection or family heirlooms. Architectural details such as an arched entrance hall and airy, light-filled stairwell create luxury while maintaining livability and warmth. The master suite enjoys magical views, an enormous walk-in closet, an elegant bath with Jacuzzi tub and separate roomy shower, and sliding glass doors leading to the expansive deck. A wood-paneled elevator accesses every level. There are 27 in-ceiling speakers with individual room controls, a pantry/wine room connected to the kitchen, and handsome 9-foot solid wood doors throughout and a fire sprinkler system throughout the entire house.

Price: \$1,850,000 Open Sunday 2 to 5 p.m.

Listing agent: Mark P. Choi, Marvin Gardens Real Estate, 510-524-0800

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Real Estate Focus:

Oakland home has patio, bay view



ONLY ONCE IN A GREAT while does a property combine the many elements found in this wonderful four-bedroom, three-bath mid-century home at 5377 Hilltop Crescent. It is an elegant beauty in a serene park-like setting in Oakland's Upper Rockridge neighborhood. The living room is grand and elegant with walls of glass leading to a large level-out patio with mature landscaping and a San Francisco Bay view. The patio also has a large fire pit which is the perfect setting for casual entertaining. The updated eat-in kitchen is spacious with designer appliances including dishwasher and refrigerator drawer systems. The floors of this lovely home are Italian tile, hardwood, and newly installed carpeting on the lower level. Also on the lower level is a large family room with a built-in entertainment unit and bar. The fourth bedroom, bathroom, exercise room with ballet barre and mirrors complete the lower level. Minutes to SF freeways, BART and shopping.

Price: \$1,595,000. Open Sunday from 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Listing agents: Dee Knowland and Jeffrey Neidelman, Pacific Union, 510-338-1318, 510-338-1385. See photos at www.deeknowland.com or www.jeffreyneidelman.com or 5377hilltop.com.



U-BILD

Cabinet keeps computer handy, out of sight

BY DON AND DAVE RUNYAN

U-BILD

Here's a great way to keep your computer protected and out of sight while adding office and study space to your home-all without major construction. Perfect for a den, bedroom or even one end of the dining room, this computer secretary project allows do-it-yourselfers to use a small area for big jobs, then close everything up in an attractive cabinet.

Occupying just eight square feet, the project features dedicated space for a computer tower, monitor and printer and a big pull-down desktop for a keyboard and mouse.

In addition, a convenient storage cabinet holds books, manuals and other supplies behind closed doors. Made primarily from plywood (pine as pictured, but other wood will work), the secretary features all straight cuts and a full-size pattern for the angle on the legs, so there's no guesswork involved.

To build, simply cut the pieces to size, sand and assemble using glue and nails. The project may be

finished to match any decor. The computer secretary measures about 48 inches tall by 44 inches wide by 23 inches deep; the monitor bay is about 30 inches wide by 20 inches tall by 21 inches deep.

The Computer Secretary plan, No. 939, is \$10.95 and includes detailed step-by-step instructions with photos, full-size traceable patterns, construction diagrams, plywood cutting layouts and a shopping list and cutting schedule.

A package of desk plans, No. C77, is \$24.95 and includes plans for two roll-top desks, a traditional secretary and a Franklin desk.

A catalog picturing hundreds of do-it-yourself projects is \$2. Please include \$3 for postage and handling (except catalog-only orders) and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409. To order by credit card, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at ubild.com

Conventional wisdom not always best

In a time of super spenders and discontinued company pension plans, saving for retirement has become an increasingly difficult task. Because we must rely primarily on our own plans and estimates, it is quite common for us to look to conventional wisdom when planning for life after we've quit working.

Personal finance literature, savings programs and expert advice may seem endless, each offering "tricks of the trade," but it is important to examine each of our unique personal circumstances before settling with the standard.

One of the most common "rules" in retirement is to avoid tapping your tax-deferred accounts and instead generate cash by liquidating other investments. While this option can be beneficial in many circumstances, you may also want to consider those accounts with the lowest rate of return, regardless of whether they are tax-deferred or not. By historical standards, interest rates today remain relatively low. While core inflation also is low, the real return on fixed-income investments such as bonds may be lower than that of various equity securities. To illustrate, under this scenario, a hypothetical portfolio composed of 50 percent stocks and 50 percent bonds would likely last longer if bonds were withdrawn before stocks.

Another common retirement ritual is to begin taking withdrawals from Social Security. However, it is important to keep in mind the rules associated with these benefits. You may want to delay taking Social Security for as long as possible.

Remember, your payouts will rise for each year you wait until age 70, but if you withdraw before your 70th birthday, there is a small increment of reduction for each month you take benefits early. And, the reduction is permanent.

For example, if your full retirement age is 66, and you begin to take benefits at 62, each check you receive from that point on will only be 75 percent of the full amount you

would have received had you waited.

Another bit of conventional wisdom deals with the percentage of your current income that you will need in order to have a comfortable retirement. Many say that the average American worker will need approximately 60 to 80 percent of their pre-retirement income in order to maintain their current standard of living. Before these numbers are set in stone, however, there are various factors to consider that may push you to strive for even more savings.

For example, health care costs are rising. In fact, during the coming years the increase in health care costs is expected to continue to outpace inflation. Additionally, there is also the possibility you may need nursing home care. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that about 40 percent of people aged 65 or older

have at least a 50 percent lifetime risk of entering a nursing home.

Along with the increased burden of medical care, many retirees dream of exotic trips to faraway destinations during their golden years. Be sure to factor this in well. While many of your expenses - commuting costs, professional attire and children's needs - may go down once you enter retirement, different priorities or needs may meet or exceed your previous costs. These are just some of the additional considerations you need to be aware of when planning how much income you'll need in retirement.

While personal finance and retirement planning advice seems plentiful in today's world, it is essential for you to look at your specific situation in order to tailor a retirement plan that's right for you. As your needs change and your nest

shown
by appointment

Beloved Bungalow!! This light and inviting two bedroom, one bath home has been in the same family for many years and is located in one of Berkeley's most desirable neighborhoods, close to Solano Avenue and Gourmet Ghetto shops and dining. View a photo tour at johandjudith.com.

Offered at \$595,000

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Wonderful light with open floor plan. Two and 1.5 baths, plus separate office/study. Outdoor entertaining available with brick patio. Plans for expansion are available at www.6438ascot.com

OPEN SUN

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Taking a look around the East real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries

FOR THE PUBLIC

Housing facts

The California Association of Realtors Research and Economics Department offers its 2005 California Housing Market Annual Historical Data Summary to Realtors and non-members. The report has historical and statistical data from 1968 to 2005. To purchase a hard copy call 213-739-8352.

Walk About

It's a Walkabout! The 5th Annual OLB Walk Around The Lake is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, at Lake Merritt in Oakland. The start/finish line is located near Children's Fairyland. Proceeds are donated to Oral Lee Brown Foundation. The Oakland Association of Realtors supports the Oral Lee Brown Foundation and the walk for Oral Lee's kids. The foundation provides college scholarships for high school students. This year's goal is \$50,000. The 2006 Chairperson is Lois Harris of Prudential California Realty. To find out more about walking or donating call 510-558-6805.

RE Web

Consumers can find a wealth of information on the Internet. It's a logical first step in finding out just about everything to do with real es-

tate. Here's a site I've visited and thought you might like too. This is a useful site if you are looking to move to Oakland. Just a few of the features are listings of affordable housing developments, First-time buyer programs and residential rehabilitation services for owner-occupied and rental properties. But even if you already live there or you're just interested in visiting, check out the points of interest, the events calendar and city news. Find all this at oaklandnet.com.

Newsom creations

ticket and location 510-339-9014.

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Investors. Bay Area Investors

Educational Services of Oakland of

fers a monthly program on the ben

efits of and strategies for investi

ng in real estate. The two-part program

"The Hot Albuquerque Market and

Using Notes To Invest" is 6:30 to

9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 5. Call for

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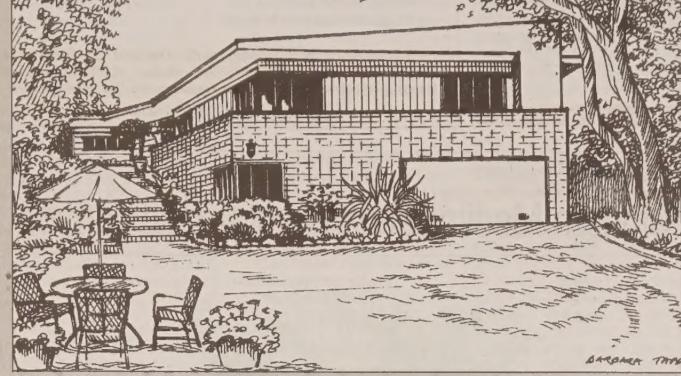
President with A.G.

Oakland. She can

510-452-8060

Real Estate Focus:

Oakland home has patio, bay view



ONLY ONCE IN A GREAT while does a property combine the many elements found in this wonderful four-bedroom, three-bath mid-century home at 5377 Hilltop Crescent. It is an elegant beauty in a serene park-like setting in Oakland's Upper Rockridge neighborhood. The living room is grand and elegant with walls of glass leading to a large level-out patio with mature landscaping and a San Francisco Bay view. The patio also has a large fire pit which is the perfect setting for casual entertaining. The updated eat-in kitchen is spacious with designer appliances including dishwasher and refrigerator drawer systems. The floors of this lovely home are Italian tile, hardwood, and newly installed carpeting on the lower level. Also on the lower level is a large family room with a built-in entertainment unit and bar. The fourth bedroom, bathroom, exercise room with ballet barre and mirrors complete the lower level. Minutes to SF freeways, BART and shopping.

Price: \$1,595,000. Open Sunday from 2 - 4:30 p.m.

Listing agents: Dee Knowland and Jeffrey Neidelman, Pacific Union, 510-338-1318, 510-338-1385. See photos at www.deeknowland.com or www.jeffreyneidelman.com or 5377hilltop.com.



U-BILD

Cabinet keeps computer handy, out of sight

BY DON AND DAVE RUNYAN

U-BILD

Here's a great way to keep your computer protected and out of sight while adding office and study space to your home-all without major construction. Perfect for a den, bedroom or even one end of the dining room, this computer secretary project allows do-it-yourselfers to use a small area for big jobs, then close everything up in an attractive cabinet.

Occupying just eight square feet, the project features dedicated space for a computer tower, monitor and printer and a big pull-down desktop for a keyboard and mouse.

In addition, a convenient storage cabinet holds books, manuals and other supplies behind closed doors. Made primarily from plywood (pine as pictured, but other wood will work), the secretary features all straight cuts and a full-size pattern for the angle on the legs, so there's no guesswork involved.

To build, simply cut the pieces to size, sand and assemble using glue and nails. The project may be

finished to match any decor. The computer secretary measures about 48 inches tall by 44 inches wide by 23 inches deep; the monitor bay is about 30 inches wide by 20 inches tall by 21 inches deep.

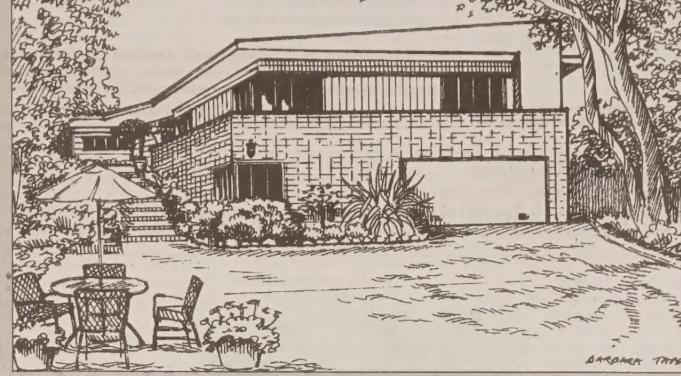
The Computer Secretary plan, No. C77, is \$24.95 and includes plans for two roll-top desks, a traditional secretary and a Franklin desk.

A catalog picturing hundreds of do-it-yourself projects is \$2. Please include \$3 for postage and handling (except catalog-only orders) and allow about two weeks for delivery.

To order by mail, clip this article and send it with a check or money order to U-Bild Features, c/o Hills Newspapers, P.O. Box 2383, Van Nuys, CA 91409. To order by credit card, call 1-800-828-2453. Visit U-Bild on the Web at ubild.com

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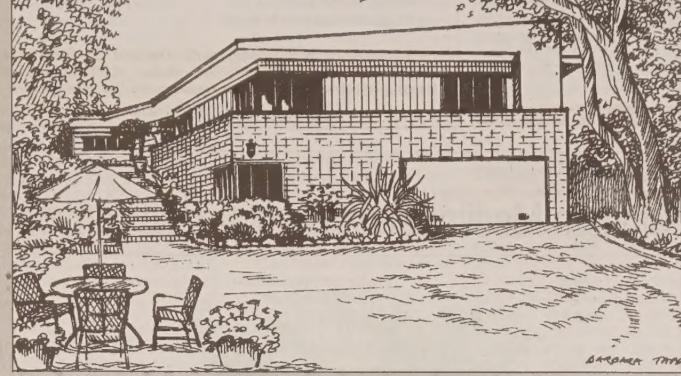
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Real Estate Focus:

es, bees everywhere

and become rancid. It may seep through inside surfaces. It will smell bad for months. It may attract ants and other insects and mice.

I read true bee stories about people who got bees to come out of a building on their own. No sawing, no wrecking. Here's what they did: They set up a small colony with a queen in a box located as near as possible to the entrance hole used by the bees inhabiting the building. This was the bait.

Then they attached over the entrance hole a wire mesh cone, the end shaped in such a way that bees could come out but not go back in. The bees come out of the building and find the new colony so appealing that they move. In six weeks, or so the story goes, all the bees have relocated.

This sounded great but for this sort of bee trapping to be successful, constant attendance by the right person is required. Too bad, because I was dreading having to open the surfaces of my building.

Once Anet and I were on the scene while a bee colony was removed from a house, a listing we had in Berkeley. Relatives of the owner, a woman in her eighties who had been ill and in bed for some time, had noticed bees going in and out of a small hole outside the woman's bedroom window.

She called to update me. Khaled had been stung a few times; so had his assistant. They would be back before long to remove the honey and comb.

Shaun was taking photos to show me. It was good that we'd dealt with this now because the bees were already spreading further afield. Plus, an interesting bit of trivia: Khaled had identified the bees as Italian.

Remembering this experience, and after learning what I had about bees, I decided I had to go forward. I had to let Khaled do his thing. But I didn't want to be there; I didn't want to experience the deconstruction or bee removal in person. I prevailed on Shaun to meet Khaled early one morning. I got an OK from the tenants, who secured their cats away from the probable action site, and that day, I sat at home by the phone.

Less than half an hour after start time, Shaun called to say that they had located the nest above the downstairs apartment's kitchen ceiling. They could see that the nest was large and that it ran between the floors. He asked if I would prefer that they remove the nest from below or from above.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarhoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarhoffandtalbert.com.

TARHOFF AND TALBERT
True Experiences

It took all told about six hours to remove the hive and to clean up, including — at Shaun's estimate — nine gallons of honey. The hole in ceiling is about 4 feet long and runs between rafters, so it's close to 2 feet wide.

Because the surface above the nest is covered with hardwood floors, it seemed to both Shaun and me that going from below would be easier and less expensive to repair. That decided, Khaled and his assistant vacuumed the bees up, then took them to a hive he keeps.

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It took all told about six hours to remove the hive and to clean up, including — at Shaun's estimate — nine gallons of honey. The hole in ceiling is about 4 feet long and runs between rafters, so it's close to 2 feet wide.

Some bees were not "at home" during the removal so Khaled will be back in a week. Meanwhile, the hole is covered with paper and taped securely closed.

My downstairs tenant returned home after work that evening and reported that she could hear activity behind the paper in the ceiling, and the kitchen floor was still sticky. Khaled will soon return, then Shaun will repair the ceiling and with any luck, this is my last bee thriller.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarhoff are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at www.tarhoffandtalbert.com.

Should homeowners refinance before retirement?

INMAN NEWS FEATURES

Dear Bob: My husband and I are 68. I retired last December. He will retire in August. We still own \$73,000 on our \$155,000 ranch house. Since our retirement budget will be tight, my husband wants to refinance now for \$125,000, put the money in a trust account, and make the house payments with this money. Is this a good idea? — Jackie U.

Dear Jackie: Readers in high-cost housing areas are drooling at your low housing costs. But it looks like you have no alternative if you can't afford the current mortgage payments on your retirement income.

I don't think you have enough home equity to qualify for a senior citizen reverse mortgage lump sum to pay off the existing mortgage. Just for fun, check with a local reverse mortgage lender to see if you could qualify for a reverse mortgage so you wouldn't have any payments.

What if home seller refuses to deliver the deed?

Dear Bob: I have been in escrow since April 24, 2005, to buy a house. But the seller's mortgage lender refuses to waive the pre-payment penalty on her loan and will not allow the sale to close. I have met all my financial obligations as the buyer. What should I do? — Annie B.

Dear Annie: I presume your seller refuses to pay the pre-payment penalty and you really want to own that house.

If I were in your situation, I would consult a local real estate attorney to file a specific performance lawsuit to enforce the purchase contract with a recorded "lis pendens" (that means title litigation is pending) against the title.

Such a lawsuit protects your legal right to buy the home and effectively prevents the seller from selling to another buyer, perhaps at a higher price, or refinancing the mortgage.

If the case goes to trial, the court can order the seller to deliver the deed, including paying the pre-payment penalty which is not a valid excuse not to honor your sales contract.

DON'T MISS THE WEEKLY SALES STARTING ON 8/8.

Ritchey Real Estate & Investments
OPEN SUNDAY 8/27 2-5 PM
5620 PANAMA AVE., RICHMOND ANNEX



\$449,000

Sweet 2 BD/ 1 BATH starter home, freshly painted with Pergo floors and new vinyl tile floors; brick fireplace, dining area & sunny fenced yard in quiet neighborhood convenient to transportation.

Call Deborah (510) 527-3060

Is Aunt Sally's 1981 deed still valid?

Dear Bob: My Aunt Sally quitclaimed her property to herself and my sister Karen in 1981. However, the deed was never recorded. Sally passed away in 1982. Is it too late to record the deed now?

— Serge A.

Dear Serge: If the quit claim deed is in proper recordable form, and Aunt Sally's signature was properly notarized, it is up to the local recorder of deeds to determine if an old deed is recordable under state law where the property is located.

If the recorder of deeds refuses to record the deed, your sister Karen should bring a quiet title lawsuit in the jurisdiction where the property is located to determine her rights to the property. The court will also consider the rights of whoever inherited Aunt Sally's interest in the property.

— George M.

Dear George: Because you have held title only four months before selling the condo, your profit is taxed as the short-term ordinary income tax rate. The date of signing the purchase contract is irrelevant. What matters is the date you took title. For full details, please consult your tax adviser.



ROBERT BRUSS

purchase in March 2005. I will sell the condo in July 2005 at a substantial profit.

Will my profit be taxed as a long-term capital gain (16 months between signing purchase contract and the sale date) or short-term (four months between closing and sale) capital gain?

— George M.



27 Shadow Mountain Oakland

Sequoyah Heights Townhouse

OPEN
SUN 8/27
2 - 4 PM

Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Sequoyah Heights overlooking the bay. The sunny living and dining area feature plush wall-to-wall carpet and a brick wood-burning fireplace. The kitchen boasts Spanish tile floors, dishwasher, double oven, refrigerator and a cozy breakfast nook. The patio provides a wonderful view of the bay and hills and is perfect for summer cookouts. From the spacious upstairs master bedroom suite, one can see the bay, the hills and on a clear day, San Francisco. Pool and clubhouse close by. This townhouse is ready for you to move in. For information and a private tour, please call Evelyn Kennedy at 510-504-5612

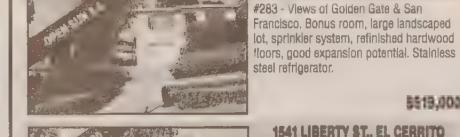
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3 New Listings



1118 SANTA CLARA ST., RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

#283 - Views of Golden Gate & San Francisco. Bonus room, large landscaped lot, sprinkler system, refinished hardwood floors, good expansion potential. Stainless steel refrigerator.

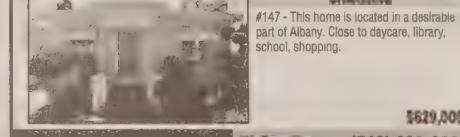
\$515,000



1541 LIBERTY ST., EL CERRITO

#264 - Charming home offers a new kitchen w/ new appliances & granite counters, new bath, refinished floors, freshly painted interior, & new furnace. Private backyard w/ new landscaping, brick patio & a great neighborhood close to everything, make this cozy light filled home a must see.

\$415,000

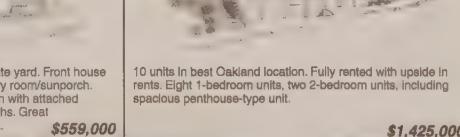


#147 - This home is located in a desirable part of Albany. Close to daycare, library, school, shopping.

CHARMING

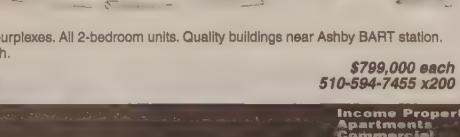
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Richmond (510) 232-1462
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Piedmont Avenue
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2931-2933 Stanton St., Berkeley**\$799,000 each**
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Broker Associate
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Experience with Integrity

Richardson
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117 Colgett Dr. \$875,000
Sweeping View, Crestmont Home
Extraordinary 4BD/3BA home that will capture your heart! Spacious living room/dining with wood-burning fireplace. Remodeled main bath with spa tub and marble floors. Master bedroom offers sweeping views & access to upper deck.

10314 Foothill Bl. \$499,000
Cozy and Affordable Toler Heights Beauty. Charming 3BD/1.5BA split-level. Toler Heights Area home. Updated eat-in kitchen and tastefully remodeled main bath. Spacious living room with wood-burning fireplace and much more...

3000 60th Ave. \$559,000
Pristine Mills Area Tudor
Nestled in the desirable Mills area, this 3BD/2BA Tudor home offers more than its Old World charm. Updated eat-in kitchen with newer appliances, countertops, cabinets and flooring. Cozy living room adjoins dining area through archway.

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Oakland, CA 94605
(510) 569-3491
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georgia@richardsonres.com

For details, contact:
Georgia Richardson
Broker

Updated Temescal Craftsman
4219 Shafter Ave., Oakland
OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

Beautifully restored 4-bedroom, 2-bath Temescal Craftsman. Redone inside and out. Many original details. Sunroom. Big backyard. Must see!

\$699,000
Fred Perkins 510-594-7455 x202

Oakland Duplex
1642 14th St., Oakland

2-bedroom, 1-bath lower unit. 2-bedroom, 1-bath upper unit. Large units. Lower unit completely renovated. Building in very nice condition.

\$510,000
Fred Perkins 510-594-7455 x202

ANNE BRUFF
ASSOCIATE

510-594-7455

Six-hundred-payment loan? Long way to go for 50-year mortgages

By MARY UMBERGER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
\$800 monthly payments, and
house is all yours.

...you will, at the thought
of a 50-year mortgage, but it's here.
California mortgage company
to offer the loans in March
and them as a lifeline to con-
sumers trying to squeeze into that
ultra-prime market.

Dan Green, a mortgage planner
with Mobius Mortgage Group in
Chicago, said the loans recently

That's a minuscule portion of the
industry's \$700 billion in all mort-
gage originations in the period.

Darren Welsberg, president of
the Illinois Association of Mortgage
Brokers, said he is not seeing "any
activity on the loans" in Chicago.
"It's too soon."

So far, most of the loans are in
Chicago, though a few lenders are
marketing them nationally to sub-
prime borrowers, who have spotty
credit histories and are
likely to pay higher interest rates.

"This is not a product that has
been taking the world by storm,"

Mega-lenders such as Wells
Fargo and Countrywide say they
have no plans to offer 50-year loans.

Green said some of those credit-
impaired borrowers might be good
candidates for the 50s. The bor-
rowers would use the ARM to lever-
age the equity from their homes to

pay off debt and improve their credit
scores ... then refinace out of the
50-year loan to something with bet-
ter terms. "It's ironic that the longest
available amortized loan is really a
short-term solution for some people," Green said.

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Mae and Bear, Stearns & Co. said
recently that they have no plans to buy
the 50-year mortgages from
lenders. Just give them time, say

some in the industry. "I don't see
any objections to Fannie and Fred-
die (Mac) buying the product," said
Terry King, who follows loan trends

for MRG Document Technologies,
a Dallas firm that provides support
services to the mortgage industry.
"It's pick up speed. It's got mom-
entum on the East and West
Coasts."

See 50-YEAR, Page B9

Critics dismiss these loans as a poor choice or
a marketing gimmick. But some in the industry
say 50-year mortgages are finding their niche,
and it may be just a matter of time before they
are common.

But some in the industry say
mortgages are finding their
niche, and it may be just a matter
of time before they are common.
"The loan would fill a need
for people to keep their
pay downs," said Alex Diaz Jr., vice
president of Statewide Bancorp, a
mortgage company in Rancho Cu-
mico, Calif.

In the second quarter Statewide
lent about \$92.1 million in 50-
year loans in five states, Diaz said.

Green said some of those credit-
impaired borrowers might be good
candidates for the 50s. The bor-
rowers would use the ARM to lever-
age the equity from their homes to

have become available to Chicago-
area borrowers through mortgage
brokers who have business rela-
tionships with several national
lenders that are offering them. Most
of these lenders specialize in so-
called "subprime" or "nonprime"
loans.

Green said some of those credit-
impaired borrowers might be good
candidates for the 50s. The bor-
rowers would use the ARM to lever-
age the equity from their homes to

said Doug Duncan, chief economist
for the Mortgage Bankers Associa-
tion, a trade group in Washington,
D.C. "From a statistical perspective
they are practically nonexistent."

Mega-lenders such as Wells
Fargo and Countrywide say they
have no plans to offer 50-year loans.

And they say the loans will not
get traction until they become
widely sold in the secondary market,
as most mainstream mortgages are.

Mortgage financers Fannie
and Freddie Mac are not yet

A sampling of our current listings:

San Pablo



Cute 3bd/1ba home — hardwood floors,
new double pane windows, tiled
kitchen and bath. Roof is 5 years old.
White picket fence front yard
and many fruit trees in backyard
\$425,000

San Francisco -- Mission



Beautiful 3-unit Edwardian. 2 bbd units,
wonderfully updated 3bd top floor unit
with views to Twin Peaks. Ideal investment
or as TICs (two units vacant at COE).
\$1,795,000

Mill Valley



Charming 4 bd, 1 ba home in popular
Sycamore Park close to schools, rec center,
downtown & more. Refinished floors
and new paint inside and outside facade.
Use as is or bring your imagination.
There's lots of potential.
\$950,000

Prudential
California Realty

Jim Hedges
manager

stuniorjim@aol.com
415-762-9399

241 Market St. San Francisco

220 Union St. San Francisco

and our newest location!



221 Caledonia St. Sausalito



Discover Sunset Point in Marina Bay — The Chron called it "the Tiburon of the East Bay..." 2+BD/3BA, views of Bay & Mt. Tam, stunning interior filled with light, unique spaces and beautifully done. Charming garden takes full advantage of the sunny micro-climate. Just \$785,000



2 Available

Aadorable, affordable cottage
condos in Crocker Highlands!
Remodeled from the foundation to the
roof in 2000, these free-standing units
are located on lovely grounds.
IBD/IBA, & 1+BD/1BA, just 4 units
total. Formal dining room, fireplace,
hardwood & more. Offered at just
\$419,000/\$429,000

Call 510/526-4336 for more information!
Northbrae Properties — 1600 Hopkins Street, Berkeley 94707 — 510/526-4336

Celebrating 25 Years Of Excellence



PLANET PROPERTIES

809 Hearst, Unit A, Berkeley
Open Sunday 1-5:00pm

Priced at \$679,000

Fab live/work condo in the heart of the 4th Street area. One of two
detached units. Upper living unit is bright and open with vaulted
ceilings and includes 2 bedroom/l bath, hardwood floors, and fireplace.
Ground floor commercial space on Hearst St. is approx. 490 sq/ft for
office, studio, etc. and opens to a beautiful courtyard with fountain.
Close to shops, restaurants and transportation.

Nancy Duff
Broker
John Fonte
Realtor, MBA

Contact: Nancy Duff, Broker 510-527-3729
John Fonte, Agent 510-301-7725

Visit www.planetproperties.com



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- Complimentary pre-approval lets you know how much home you can afford
- Up to four monthly payment options for more financial control
- Flexible qualifying guidelines increase your home buying power
- Loan amounts up to \$1.5 million

Additional discounts also available

Washington Mutual

Richmond Home Loan Center

12121 San Pablo Ave, 2nd Floor • Richmond • (510) 215-4081

Certain restrictions apply. Program is subject to change. We have loan offices and accept applications for Washington Mutual Bank, PA — many states; Washington Mutual Bank — ID, OIL, UT, WA and Washington Mutual Bank, fslb — ID, MT, UT.

Established 1976



1884 Eastlake Stick Victorian

1726 19th Avenue
OAKLAND

www.redoakrealty.com

2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94611

4 Bedroom / 2 Bathroom Gorgeous Victorian with Estuary, Bridge and San
Francisco views, hardwood floors, large fenced backyard, upstairs family room.
LISTED AT \$559,000

OPEN SUNDAY AUGUST 27th 2-4 PM

Dianne Arancibia, Real Estate Consultant

DIRECT: 510-717-2215 EMAIL: dianne@redoakrealty.com

Established 1976



RED OAK REALTY

Maxwell Park Charmer



2607 KINGSLAND AVENUE, OAKLAND
Adorable 1920's Bungalow in excellent location. As you arrive at this 2
bedroom, 1 bath home, you will be instantly taken by the charming curb
appeal with its sweet garden & stunning architectural windows. Up the
stairs you will find a lovely entryway leading to the sun drenched living room,
full size formal dining room, enormous bedrooms and kitchen with breakfast
nook and pretty tile. Large grassy back yard with mature fruit trees just
waiting for your next sunny afternoon BBQ.
LISTED AT \$499,000

OPEN SUNDAY AUGUST 27th 2-4:30 PM

Grace Bishop, Realtor®

DIRECT: 510-280-2178 EMAIL: www.gracebishop.com

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B19.

open sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Situated on Maybeck's famed pedestrian walkway, this historic three bedroom, one and one half bath landmark was designed by architect Henry Gutterson in the 1930's. This home features exquisite period details while offering the best of today with its renovated kitchen and baths. This property is a true Berkeley treasure! View 2518rosewalk.com.

Offered at \$875,000



2518 Rose Walk, Berkeley

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DANA COHEN
Office: 510.339.0400/348
dcohen@grubbc.com
danacohen.com



Tere Lee Real Estate Team

Tere Lee 510-357-8800
Karin Lim 510-282-5241
Lye Legronio 510-305-9050
Miki Yoshihura 510-205-7355

OPEN SAT & SUN 2-5. SEE THESE BEAUTIFUL HOMES AND PICK UP AN ICE COLD BEVERAGE.

13925 Seagate Dr., San Leandro
3 Bd/2.5Ba "D" model in Marina Seagate community. Large master with walk-in closet. **\$579,000**

14413 Seagate Dr., San Leandro
2 Bd/2.5Ba "A" model in Marina Seagate. Freshly painted, vaulted ceilings. **\$399,000**

13929 Seagate Dr., San Leandro
3 Bd/2.5Ba w/ a mirror treatment, built-in bookcases in bed/office. **\$526,000**

1736 Grove Way, Castro Valley
Single-level 3 Bd/1.5 Ba with attached 2-car gar, x-tra large lot and covered patio area for outdoor entertaining. Features new roof, new exterior paint, granite countertops. **\$649,000**

2505 Galleon Pl., San Leandro
3 Bd/2.5Ba in Marina Seagate community. Porcelain tile floors, Wainscoting floors, updated interior treatment, remodeled kitchen, alarm system. Move-in condition. **\$531,500**



2516 Galleon Pl., San Leandro

How would you like to live a car-free lifestyle in the secure and secluded Marina Seagate community?

We are offering this beautiful bright and airy townhome that's in move-in condition. 3 Bd/2.5 Ba, approx. 1598 sf, pool, tennis & spa. **\$529,000**

All homes purchased or sold by Tere Lee Real Estate Team are covered by a home warranty, courtesy of Tere Lee.

United Brokers
Direct: 510.357.8800
Toll Free: 800.805.TERE
E-mail: tere@erain.com
www.tereleehomes.com

KENSINGTON

44 Marguerita Rd. @ Arlmont



This Home is
Perfection. With
Bay, Bridges,
And City Views!

Stunning 5 Bedroom, 5 Bath (4,400 sq. ft. Home)

AMAZING RENOVATIONS AND STUNNING VIEWS from every room on 15,000 sq. ft. of lush gardens and stone patios. Huge living room with soaring ceiling, gourmet kitchen with 9' long island, 2 fireplaces & separate family room. Fabulous master suite.

Jill Hacker
REAL ESTATE
(415) 386-4138

Open Sunday
2-4 P.M. Offered At
\$3,000,000

Established
1976

RED OAK REALTY

Exceptional 5-Unit on Beautiful Lot



5467 LAWTON AVENUE, OAKLAND

Best urban living for you and/or your tenants on the intersection of Lawton, College, and Forest. 1 block from Rockridge BART, seconds from College Avenue eateries, minutes to CCAC and Piedmont Avenue, a short bus ride to UC Berkeley. Ideally situated between Hwy 13, 24, 80 and 580. It doesn't get any better. If location is an important objective when choosing to add to your income property portfolio, this one is for you. **LISTED AT \$949,000**

Mamood Moktari, Licensed Real Estate Broker
DIRECT: 510-280-2133 EMAIL: mamoodmoktari@yahoo.com

Established
1976

RED OAK REALTY

Pacific Park Plaza



6363 CHRISTIE
#1301
EMERYVILLE

BY APPOINTMENT

Emeryville's premier address. This stylish 1-bedroom unit is just minutes to the new Emery Bay Center, I-80, downtown Oakland and San Francisco, and UC Berkeley campus.

Patrick Leaper, Realtor®
DIRECT: 510-280-2110 WEBSITE: www.patrickleaper.com

coming soon

Lovely 1927's home on charming cul-de-sac Crocker Highlands cul-de-sac. Features include three bedrooms, two and one half baths, formal living and dining rooms, renovated kitchen and baths, family/bonus/media room, level garden and spacious sunny decks for entertaining!

Offered at \$1,175,000



33 Bowles Place
Crocker Highlands

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS
GRUBBCO.COM

JULIE GARDNER
Office: 510.339.0400/264
jgardner@grubbc.com

Gallagher
& Lindsey
REALTORS®



5581 Lawton Avenue

Desirable Rockridge Craftsman on Tree-lined Lawton Avenue. Close to gourmet shops and restaurants on College Avenue with access to freeway and BART. Exquisitely renovated with fine details by Jarvis Architects for this 1910 home. Granite kitchen with center island, Corian counter tops and numerous special including Viking range and cherry cabinets. Designer master suite with expansive view of Oakland Hills. Breakfast nook with French doors lead Brazilian hardwood decking which overlooks private landscaped rear. Detached two-story structure with office loft over garage. **\$1,299,000**

510-917-1617 Cell 510-865-2776 Res GBissett@Alamedanet.com

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Piedmont Listing Update

114 Alta Avenue
Offered at \$1,445,000
New Listing



SOLD
Two houses together
Originally offered at \$1,750,000
Represented the Buyer

80 Wildwood Avenue

29 Park Way
Originally offered at \$1,999,000
SOLD - Represented the Buyer

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1976

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Just Listed!

RED OAK
REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

1891 Solano Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94707



320 51ST STREET #A & #B, OAKLAND
Classic, Light-filled 1920's Building. Sparkling Remodeled One-Bedroom Dining Room with Built-ins, Extra Space For Computers or Storage. Dryer, Hardwood Floors, Central Heat, Level in From Garage & Garden to College Avenue, Shopping & Transportation. **LISTED AT \$419,000**

OPEN SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH 2-4 PM

Barbara Hendrickson, Realtor®
DIRECT: 510-280-2140 WEBSITE: www.justsellmyhouse.com

Established
1976

RED OAK REALTY

Richmond View

RED OAK
REALTY

www.redoakrealty.com

2099 Pleasant Valley
Oakland, CA 94611



5601 ESMOND AVENUE, RICHMOND
Situated on a beautifully landscaped corner parcel, this charming 1+ bathroom home features a detached studio with bath, a courtyard, and a double car garage. **LISTED AT \$249,000**

OPEN SUNDAY AUGUST 27TH 2-4 PM

Patrick Leaper, Realtor®
DIRECT: 510-280-2110 WEBSITE: www.patrickleaper.com

RED OAK REALTY | Homes Open Sunday

To sign up for daily email updates or for other Real Estate information, visit www.redoakrealty.com.

ALBANY - NEW! \$595,000
2/2 - Adorable Victorian woodsy 1910 shingle cottage. Rustic brick patio under redwood tree, wooded garden. www.1124talbotave.com
1124 Talbot Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW! \$975,000
4+/-3+ - Berkeley hills mid century. Estate home. One-owner architect designed home. Hardwood floors, decks, fireplace, in law apartment.
1116 Miller Avenue Open 2-4



BERKELEY - NEW! \$649,000
2/1 - Sunny updated home has detached studio with bath & kitchen. Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, new roof. www.katieandmark.com
1425 Virginia Street Open 2-5



BERKELEY \$599,000
2/1 - Fabulous Craftsman. Formal dining room, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, built-in cabinets, garden. www.zurmitada.com
1912 Chestnut Street Open 2-4



EMERYVILLE \$545,000
LOFT - Stunning New York style brick & timber loft in 10-units warehouse conversion. Skylights, laundry in unit. www.saragabedian.com
1250 Powell Street #7 Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$709,000
3/2 - Remodeled upper floor condo. Light-filled & spacious. Updated with beautiful finishes, fireplace, skylights, loft.
2230 6th Street Open 2-4:30



BERKELEY \$549,000
2+/-1 - Classic bungalow with period details. Enclosed porch, antique tiled fireplace, study off bedroom, converted garage.
1635 Channing Way Open 2-4



BERKELEY \$619,000
2/2 - Amazing townhouse in private gated community away from street. Living/dining room with fireplace, patio, garden, private parking.
1151 Hearst Avenue Open 2-4



PIEDMONT \$999,000
3+/-2.5 - Craftsman with built-ins, designer colors, hardwood floors, deck, study, garden with fruit trees & raised beds for planting.
63 Wildwood Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$419,000 EACH
1/1 - Renovated condos in classic light-filled 1920's building. Dual pane windows, garage, washer/dryer in unit. www.justsellmyhouse.com
320 51st Street #A & #B Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$515,000
2/1 - Charming Tudor. Built-ins, hardwood floors, formal dining room, detached garage, large yards. www.katieandmark.com
1801 E. 24th Street Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$509,000
2/2 - Charming updated 1920's bungalow. Built-ins, picture rail moldings, hardwood floors, rich colors. Deck off updated kitchen.
882 46th Street Open 2-4:30



RICHMOND - NEW! \$658,000
3/1+ - Artistic home with detached studio, double garage. On large corner lot with private courtyard. Rare!
5601 Esmond Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND - NEW! \$795,000
TRIPLEX - 2-bedroom units with split-level charm, original details, hardwood floors, unit laundry, garages with interior access.
6138 Shattuck Avenue Open 1:30-4:30



OAKLAND - NEW! \$499,000
2/1 - Charming 1920's bungalow with curb appeal, hardwood floors, fireplace, breakfast nook, pretty garden, huge yard.
2607 Kingsland Avenue Open 2-4:30



OAKLAND \$559,000
4/2 - Stunning 1884 Victorian. Estuary and bridge views. Updated kitchen and baths. Large sunny yard.
1726 19th Avenue Open 2-4



RICHMOND \$899,000
2/1.5 - The Bay. Perched on the marina with an attached boat dock. Remodeled open floor plan. www.katieandmark.com
1310 Mallard Drive Open 2-5



OAKLAND \$485,000
1/1 - Luxury Market Square condo in the heart of historic Old Oakland. Urban living, fusion of style, comfort, charm & convenience.
585 9th Street #428 Open 2-4



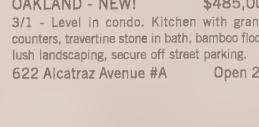
OAKLAND \$579,000
2/1 - Stylish lower Glenview bungalow. Original charm, hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, updated kitchen, landscaped backyard.
1673 Miami Court Open 2-4



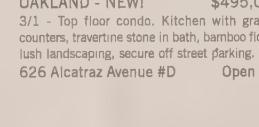
OAKLAND \$325,000-\$334,000 each
4 LOFTS - In a very cool warehouse conversion with mezzanines, stained concrete, marble, skylights & more! www.saragabedian.com
2201 West Street Open 2-4



PINOLE - NEW! \$619,900
4/1 - Sparkling remodel with hill views. New granite kitchen & baths, large yard, fireplace. www.justsellmyhouse.com
1989 Shea Drive Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$485,000
3/1 - Level in condo. Kitchen with granite counters, travertine stone in bath, bamboo floors, lush landscaping, secure off street parking.
622 Alcatraz Avenue #A Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$495,000
3/1 - Top floor condo. Kitchen with granite counters, travertine stone in bath, bamboo floors, lush landscaping, secure off street parking.
626 Alcatraz Avenue #D Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$579,000
DUPLEX - Great 1940's 2-bedroom units in Millmont. Oak floors, fireplaces, new plumbing, heating, baths, landscaping.
6233 Laird Avenue Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$569,000
LOFT - Gorgeous sunwashed 3-story corner loft with upgraded kitchen, bamboo floors, private patio, covered parking.
3116 Adeline Street #101 Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$485,000
3/1 - Level in condo. Kitchen with granite counters, travertine stone in bath, bamboo floors, lush landscaping, secure off street parking.
622 Alcatraz Avenue #A Open 2-4



OAKLAND - NEW! \$495,000
3/1 - Top floor condo. Kitchen with granite counters, travertine stone in bath, bamboo floors, lush landscaping, secure off street parking.
626 Alcatraz Avenue #D Open 2-4



OAKLAND \$325,000-\$334,000 each
4 LOFTS - In a very cool warehouse conversion with mezzanines, stained concrete, marble, skylights & more! www.saragabedian.com
2201 West Street Open 2-4



KENSINGTON \$799,000
3/2.5 - Shingled Shangri-la nestled in the hills. Updated kitchen, 2 fireplaces, deck, Bay sunsets. www.justsellmyhouse.com



OAKLAND \$509,000
3/1 - Elegant home. Warm paint colors, hardwood floors throughout, fireplace. Kitchen granite countertop, laundry room, garage.



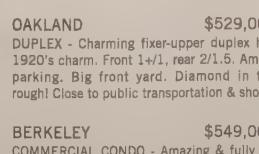
OAKLAND \$935,000
4/2 - Grand Traditional. Great light, plus rooms, architectural details galore, park like garden. www.heidiandjerry.com



OAKLAND \$699,000
3/1.5 - Crocker Highlands charmer! First time on the market in 40 years! Very well maintained.



GILROY \$449,000
2/2 - Totally remodeled townhome with new floors, granite counters, designer paint, inside laundry, attached garage. www.katieandmark.com



OAKLAND \$529,000
DUPLEX - Charming fixer-upper duplex has 1920's charm. Front 1+1, rear 2/1.5. Ample parking. Big front yard. Diamond #. Close to public transportation & shops.



OAKLAND \$589,000
2/1 - Newly renovated raised bungalow. Spacious rooms flow through a comfortable floor plan, new kitchen, deck, roomy backyard. Close to Rockridge & Temescal shops.



BERKELEY \$589,000
2/1 - Great bungalow. Big backyard with lawn, planting beds & deck. Fabulous kitchen. Media center. Near 4th Street shops.

ALBANY \$452,500
2/2 - Rare & elegant 3rd floor corner unit at Bayside Commons. 2 master suites, private balcony with hill views, fireplace, new paint.

BERKELEY \$549,000
COMMERCIAL CONDO - Amazing & fully remodeled. Custom cabinets, granite counters, washer/dryer in unit, stainless steel appliances.

BERKELEY \$589,000
2/1 - Great bungalow. Big backyard with lawn, planting beds & deck. Fabulous kitchen. Media center. Near 4th Street shops.

MORAGA \$349,000
1/1 - Immaculate end unit 850 sq.ft. with hardwood floors, updated kitchen & bath, open living spaces, deck with canyon views.

EL CERRITO \$499,000
2 HOUSES ON 1 LOT - 2 bd/1ba & 1bd/1ba. Each has hardwood floors, washer/dryer, garden. Near El Cerrito Plaza, Pacific East Mall.

EL CERRITO \$699,000
2 HOUSES ON 1 LOT - 2 bd/1ba & 1bd/1ba. Each has hardwood floors, washer/dryer, garden. Near El Cerrito Plaza, Pacific East Mall.

OAKLAND \$499,000
3/1 - Centrally located, super cute house with fireplace, newer roof, and heating/electric upgrade. Near Ashby & Rockridge BART. www.charliecookeproperties.com

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OAKLAND \$499,000
3/1 - Centrally located, super cute house with fireplace, newer roof, and heating/electric upgrade. Near Ashby

WEEKLY SALES

ALAMEDA

1520 9th St - \$599,000
 2704 Bayview Dr - \$940,000
 617 Baywood Rd - \$688,000
 420 Cola Ballena D - \$72,000
 2628 Eagle Av - \$905,000
 2040 Encinal Av - \$654,000
 48 Invincible F19 - \$775,000
 23 Leonard Ct - \$590,000
 350 Lina Av - \$1,076,000
 2420 Marti Rae - \$455,000
 1725 Mason St - \$680,000
 2378 Ocean St - \$1,219,500
 1804 Pearl St - \$635,000
 2014 Santa Clara - \$1,110,000
 3247 Sterling Av - \$629,000
 16 Sunny Cove Cr - \$985,000
 2708 Washington - \$670,000
 1333 Webster A215 - \$320,000

ALBANY

415 Cornell Av 301 - \$410,000
 1020 Cornell Av - \$525,000
 555 Pierce St 1022 - \$327,000

BERKELEY

1328 Alcatraz Av - \$550,000
 2842 Ashby Av - \$1,100,000
 562 Cragmont - \$1,010,000
 1412 Cypress St - \$780,000
 3005 Dana St - \$510,000
 2400 Dowling Pl 4 - \$280,000
 3034 Hillegass Av - \$16,000
 3331 King St - \$35,000
 2700 Le Conte 302 - \$420,000
 1510 Stannage Av - \$787,000
 2036 Vina St - \$880,000
 560 Vistamont Av - \$950,000
 1743 Ward St - \$655,000
 2903 Wheeler St - \$690,000

EL CERRITO

2749 Arlington - \$625,000
 2319 Cedar St - \$585,000
 1429 Liberty St - \$495,000
 820 Park Wy - \$750,000
 7435 Seaview Pl - \$635,000

EL SOBRANTE

119 Del Valle Cr - \$319,000
 423 Joan Vista St - \$369,000
 7 Live Oak Cr - \$430,000
 2020 Creek Rd - \$600,000

EMORYVILLE

2 Anchor Dr F478 - \$525,000
 1512 Brunswick Ln - \$749,000
 1544 Brunswick Ln - \$754,000
 6363 Christie 2404 - \$460,000
 84 Emery Bay Dr - \$500,000

KENSINGTON

244 Cambridge - \$651,000
 421 Santa Fe - \$855,000

OAKLAND

655 12th St 108 - \$500,000
 1024 36th St - \$535,000
 363 38th St - \$455,000
 2194 42nd Av - \$565,000
 1201 58th Av - \$370,000
 1330 58th Av - \$458,000
 3021 58th Av - \$507,000
 524 61st St - \$514,000
 2049 81st Av - \$490,000
 1100 82nd Av - \$400,000
 2424 82nd Av - \$419,000
 1637 85th Av - \$550,000
 1125 86th Av 209 - \$533,000
 1249 96th Av - \$400,000
 585 9th St 329 - \$302,500
 585 9th St 338 - \$297,500
 585 9th St 421 - \$428,500
 585 9th St 601 - \$385,000
 3110 Adeline S116 - \$411,000
 6240 Aspinwall - \$1,100,000
 420 Avon St - \$875,000
 1066 Calcot Pl - \$450,000
 605 Canyon Oaks C - \$347,500
 650 Canyon Oaks C - \$476,500
 635 Canyon Oaks D - \$347,500
 467 Cavour St - \$679,000
 9922 Cherry St - \$455,000
 9921 D St - \$540,000
 8033 Earl St - \$479,500
 1912 East 30th St - \$475,000
 9233 East E St - \$400,000
 1168 Elmhurst Av - \$429,000
 5360 Estates Dr - \$849,000
 77 Fairmount 313 - \$327,500
 2373 Foothill Bl - \$875,000
 2765 Frazier Av - \$450,000
 359 Ghormley Av - \$379,000
 5951 Grizzly Peak - \$1,135,000
 3243 Hannah St - \$310,000
 4108 International - \$2,000,000
 385 Jayne Av 314 - \$325,000
 3471 Laurel Av - \$490,000
 3801 Laurel Av - \$610,000
 5625 Market St - \$680,000
 3231 Monterey Bl - \$820,000
 3585 Monterey Bl - \$729,000
 9847 Olive St - \$415,000
 1134 Peralta St - \$455,000
 7863 Plymouth St - \$412,000
 3318 Revere Av - \$735,000
 6679 Saroni Dr - \$585,000
 4921 Scottie Av - \$750,000
 29 Slater Ln - \$1,048,000
 108 Strathmoor - \$1,110,000
 1288 Sunnyhills - \$1,660,000
 676 Sycamore St - \$360,000
 6565 Valley View - \$679,000
 5352 Walnut St - \$585,000
 3496 Woodruff Av - \$650,000

RICHMOND

550 28th St - \$400,000
 1839 2nd St - \$440,000
 450 36th St - \$475,000
 5409 Ace Ct - \$578,000
 6525 Arlington Bl - \$454,000
 49 Bayside Ct 296 - \$336,500
 135 Bayside Ct 382 - \$280,000
 146 Bayside Ct 393 - \$403,000
 112 Bayside Ct - \$398,000
 3817 Center Av - \$410,000

1532 Chancellor L - \$210,000
 5229 Columbia Av - \$390,000
 6319 Highland Av - \$595,000
 3409 Maricopa Av - \$485,000
 2325 McBryde Av - \$515,000
 2640 Meadow Crest - \$625,000
 5716 Oakmont Dr - \$840,000
 199 Schooner Ct - \$321,000
 3133 Shane Dr - \$610,000
 635 South 22nd St - \$575,000
 264 South 42nd St - \$549,000
 355 South 50th St - \$400,000
 3015 Tulare Av - \$495,000
 646 Western Dr - \$990,000
 406 Wood Glen - \$1,061,500

AVERAGE PRICE: \$733,071

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 5
 LOWEST PRICE: \$495,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$750,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$625,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$618,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 4
 LOWEST PRICE: \$319,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$600,000

See SALES, Page B9

SAN LEANDRO

14448 Acacia St - \$610,000
 309 Bellevue Dr - \$425,000
 825 Billings Bl - \$580,000
 229 Cherrywood - \$534,000
 1758 Dayton Av - \$555,000
 972 Estudillo Av - \$648,000
 1611 Halsey Av - \$515,000
 1881 Kappa Av - \$585,000
 15290 Laverne Dr - \$670,000
 1383 Purdue St - \$590,000
 13763 School St - \$825,000
 2077 Washington 309 - \$259,000
 14751 Western Av - \$550,000

SAN LORENZO

16123 Bertero Av - \$550,000
 15553 Tracy St - \$558,000
 17081 Via Alamitos - \$645,000
 16129 Via Olinda - \$508,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 18
 LOWEST PRICE: \$320,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,219,500
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$680,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$757,250

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
 LOWEST PRICE: \$327,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$420,667

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 14
 LOWEST PRICE: \$280,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,100,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$787,000

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 14
 LOWEST PRICE: \$327,000
 HIGHEST PRICE: \$525,000
 MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000
 AVERAGE PRICE: \$420,667

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TOTAL SALES: 14
 LOWEST PRICE: \$280,000
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244 Cambridge - \$651,000

421 Santa Fe - \$855,000

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5360 Estates Dr - \$849,000

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2373 Foothill Bl - \$875,000

2765 Frazier Av - \$450,000

359 Ghormley Av - \$379,000

5951 Grizzly Peak - \$1,135,000

3243 Hannah St - \$310,000

4108 International - \$2,000,000

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 112 Bayside Ct - \$398,000
 3817 Center Av - \$410,000

A Home Member of

THE WORLD

open
sunday

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. This delightful home has been beautifully updated throughout yet still retains its original charm. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms, Arts & Crafts tiled fireplace, hardwood floors, built-ins. Sunny kitchen opens to a deck and an inviting garden. Conveniently located near Glenview shops and transportation. Offered at \$659,000

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GRUBBCO.COM

JENNIFER FICKENSCHER
Office: 510.652.2133/460
jfickenscher@grubbcocom

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ALAIN PIN

REALTORS

1510 2nd Street

510.339.8000

ANDREA GORDON

1510 2nd Street

510.339.8000

ALAMEDA

Colonial-Style Duplex in Gold

Exceptional duplex in gray

Built-out attic unit and

basement with full bath. 294

1510 2nd Street

510.339.8000

HAL CASTLE

1510 2nd Street

510.339.8000

OAKLAND

Mid-Century Modern Bungalow

Redwood Heights with patio

views from deck. 3bd/2ba

510.339.8000

OAKLAND

Mid-Century Modern Bungalow

Redwood Heights with patio

views from deck. 3bd/2ba

510.339.8000

OAKLAND

Mid-Century Modern Bungalow

Redwood Heights with patio

Bruss

FROM PAGE B5

Can heir select date to determine "stepped-up basis?"

Dear Bob: You have often explained the stepped-up real estate basis valuation at the date of a property owner's death (or alternate date used by the estate). The comparable sales prices near the date of death for an inherited home average \$459,000. However, three months after the death, the house sold for \$600,000. How can I use an "alternative date" to reflect a more realistic stepped-up basis?

— John J.

Dear John: I presume you are the heir who inherited the property with a stepped-up basis. It is up to the estate executor to determine if an "alternative date" for valuation of estate assets is desirable for the estate. This usually occurs in a declining market.

If there was no alternate date used for valuation by the estate, then the date of death valuation is usually used to determine the heir's new "stepped-up basis" to market value.

If there was no alternate date used for valuation by the estate, then the date of death valuation is usually used to determine the heir's new "stepped-up basis" to market value.

For full details, please consult the estate executor or attorney.

The new Robert Bruss special report, "The Seven Best Ways to Legally Avoid Capital Gains Tax When Selling Your Home or Investment Realty," is now available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736 or instant Internet PDF download at www.bobbruss.com.

Questions for this column are welcome at either address.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER.

Lillie Braudy and Prudential present:

Imagine a home for one small price

Don't miss this!
Open Saturday and
Sunday 2-5



933 42nd Street,
Oakland

Offered at \$375,000

Prudential
California Realty

"Your profits will bloom with Lillie"

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Fine Homes Specialist
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lillie@braudy.com
www.braudy.com

Virtual Tour at:
<http://client.impremedia.net/8016/10909>



**marvin
gardens
real estate**

Featured Properties



Mark P. Choi
381.1116



Darrell Hoh
292-3040

7075 SKYLINE BOULEVARD MONTCLAIR

Smashing New Mediterranean with head-on Golden Gate views! 4-story, 4+bedroom, 5+bath home in an incredible location 5 minutes to Montclair Village, 100 yards to Huckleberry Botanic, 1/4 mile to Sibley Volcanic Preserve. Grand but very inviting with beautiful open floor plan and every modern comfort including elevator. Huge au-pair with full bath on 1st floor. Offered at \$1,950,000.

Open Sunday 2:00-5:00.



209 BEHRENS STREET

Albany Feel at an El Cerrito Price! Warm, inviting home on the Albany/El Cerrito border. Near EC Plaza, FatApples', BART. Luscious garden, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors throughout, living room fireplace, newer dual-paned windows. Redwood deck off rear bedroom and extra-deep lot with mature landscaping, including many fruit trees and rose bushes.

Offered at \$549,000.

Open Saturday 11:00 - 2:00 & Sunday 2:00-4:00.

EL CERRITO

Albany Feel at an El Cerrito Price! Warm, inviting home on the Albany/El Cerrito border. Near EC Plaza, FatApples', BART. Luscious garden, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors throughout, living room fireplace, newer dual-paned windows. Redwood deck off rear bedroom and extra-deep lot with mature landscaping, including many fruit trees and rose bushes.

Offered at \$549,000.

Open Saturday 11:00 - 2:00 & Sunday 2:00-4:00.

1071 Gramont Ave. Berkeley

New Classic! 4-bedroom, 3+bath home built w/elegant European looks and the very best of 21st century quality craftsmanship. Vaulted ceilings, skylit rooms full of light, filtered Bay views.

\$1,850,000 Open Sun 2:40:30

Ron Egherman/Todd Hodson 524-0800

40 Cowper Ave. Kensington

Attractive, updated 5BR/4BA. SF Bay views, 2-room master suite, new eat-in kitchen w/marble floors & granite countertops. Guest suite on lower level w/fireplace, full bath, doors to big deck.

\$985,000 Open Sun 2:40:00

Ron Egherman/Todd Hodson 524-0800

5950 Arlington Richmond View

Duplex in the Hills! Sharp duplex with fabulous possibilities! 2BR/2 bath unit in back w/big deck & bay views. Convenient 2BR unit in front. Detached garage, huge yard, wonderful area.

\$589,000 Contact agent

Dee Plunkett 527-9111

El Cerrito

Adorable 3br/2ba, 1-level hills home on large landscaped lot. Master suite, kitchen w/sliding door to patio. Roses & plenty of room for a veg garden. Hardwood floors, new carpet, fresh paint in & out.

\$569,000 Open Sun 2:40:00

Jean Shrem/Marni Fischer 527-9111

1080 McLaughlin St. Richmond

3BR/1BA home has it all! Big 6000sf lot, charming built-in cabinets, new wood laminate floors, updated kitchen w/granite countertops, tile bath, 2-car garage, full basement. Designer paint in & out.

\$499,000 Open Sun 1:40:00
Tony Wise 527-9111

1065 55th St. Oakland

Sharp Craftsman at bargain price. Gorgeous living room w/built-ins. Cut porch room. Sunny deck. High ceilings. Architectural details. Large fenced yard, off-street parking. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths.

\$495,000 Call office
Gloria Polanski 524-0800

645 39th St. Richmond N&E

Elegant, spacious 1928 bungalow is ready to move into! 3BR/1+BA, gorgeous details, inlaid hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen, lg formal living & dining rooms, breakfast nook, separate laundry room.

\$479,500 Open Sun 2:40:00
Mary Gray/Mykah Larkins 527-9111

Berkeley

Spacious Craftsman Flat! Refin hwd flrs, wainscoting, fireplace, dining rm w/office alcove. Remod bath. One lg BR. Utility room for laundry, work area, storage. Near park, tennis, pool, UC Berkeley & BART.

\$459,000 Open Sun 2:40:00
Terri Pederson 527-2700x36

926 Chester, #H Oakland

Huge loft w/wonderful light! 2-levels w/bright open spaces. Great for live/work! Hardwood flrs, fabulous kitchen w/stainless steel appliances. 1BR/1BA. Ground flr end unit. 2 parking spaces. Nr BART!

\$439,000 Shown by appointment
David Ratoosh 527-2700x44

6205 Raiston Ave. Richmond View

Mt. Tam view from your delightful new home! 2BR/1BA w/great floor plan. Backyard flat for play and terrace for garden! Hardwood floors, fireplace, eat-in kitchen. New dual-pane windows.

\$419,000 Open Sun 1:40:00
Maggie Resnick 527-9111

4121 E. 18th St. Oakland

Charming 2BR/1BA home on quiet cul-de-sac in need of TLC. Hardwood floors, arched doorway, fireplace in living room. Coved ceilings, enclosed yard, detached workshop and garden shed.

\$350,000 Open Sun 2:40:00
Jean Shrem/Marni Fischer 527-9111

Hercules

Great new price on 1/1 condo with lots of amenities. Vaulted ceiling in living room, bonus loft space for home office, interior laundry area w/appliances. Pool. \$5,000 credit for closing costs!

\$289,900 Contact agent
Darrell Hoh 524-0800

BERKELEY

1577 Solano Avenue
510.527.2700

EL CERRITO

7502 Fairmount Avenue
510.527.9111

KENSINGTON

289 Arlington Avenue
510.524.0800

POINT RICHMOND

147 W Richmond Ave., A
510.231.1640

For email updates or more information  marvingardens.com

Newspapers: Your number one source for up-to-date East Bay real estate information.

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B1

OPEN SUNDAY



6700 Gunn Drive, Oakland
Offered at \$1,139,000

Prudential
California Realty

Stunning Contemporary located in a serene setting and close proximity to Montclair Village and parks. This home features 5 bedrooms and 4 full baths, a large family room with an eat in kitchen, formal living and dining rooms, master suite with Jacuzzi tub, and in wall stereo speaker system throughout the home. Simply lovely!

Gina Cirino, Realtor
Prudential California Realty
342 Highland Ave, Piedmont
Direct: (510) 835-6089
Office: (510) 428-0900



www.HomesByHeidi.com



4350 Bridgeview Drive
Offered at: \$1,200,000

Prudential
California Realty

New Listing!
Open 2-4:30

Charming 3+ Bedroom/2 Bath, circa 1920's. Mediterranean retreat in great condition and located in the wonderful Oakmont District. Hardwood floors, a newer kitchen, family room, formal dining and a private, flower filled garden all grace this lovely residence. Staged by Seed Design.

Heidi Marchesotti
Fine Homes Specialist
#1 Producer
(510) 387-7865 Cell
(510) 869-4243 Voice Mail



Just Listed-El Cerrito Hills
8623 Thors Bay Road

Prudential
California Realty

Open Sunday 2-4 PM



Gorgeous Custom Built Home in the El Cerrito Hills. This lovely split-level home has 2.5 baths, an office/family room with a fireplace, and panoramic Bay views. This custom built home is of great living space, beautiful low maintenance motif garden with driveway and new redwood deck. Arlington Park, Miramar and Country Club. Offered at \$1,125,000.



Top Producer
Roy Grigsby
510.273.9756 Voice
Roy.Grigsby@Prudential.com

NEW LISTING IN REDWOOD HEIGHTS



4641 GERANIUM PLACE

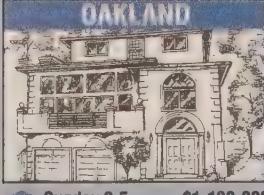
Prudential
California Realty

This beautiful 3 bed, 2 bath home has gleaming hardwood floors, a kitchen with stainless steel appliances, tile floors, and counter space. The home has a wood-burning fireplace, loads of light and a large back yard that's perfect for dining. Off of the large back yard is a large back yard that's perfect for entertaining. Offered at \$739,000.

Karen Davis Ruth
Prudential CA Realty
Two Tunnel Rd.
cell: 510-409-5910
vm: 510-273-9028
karenruth@Prudential.com

Prudential
California Realty

FEATURED HOMES



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$1,139,000
6700 Gunn Dr. Spacious, contemporary 4-BR/4BA, family room, HWF. Roberta Abel (510) 428-0900



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4:30 \$799,000
6459 Pinehaven. New listing! 4BR/2BA Montclair home. Close to shops/schools. Judith Glass/Sheila Sabine (510) 428-0900



OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$650,000
2017 12th Ave. 19th Century Victorian Cottage with 21st Century upgrades. 2+BR/2BA. Park-like backyard. Natalie Cuttler (510) 845-0211



EMERYVILLE
Sat & Sun 2-5 \$639,000
131 City Limits. Urban living at its best! 2 mstrs, chef's kit, balcony. Lillie Braudy (510) 868-1400



OAKLAND
Sat & Sun 2-5 \$639,000
933 42nd St. Sweet arts & crafts 1+BR/1BA, lg kit, HWF. Lillie Braudy

PIEDMONT

PIEDMONT
Sunday 2-4:30 \$3,500,000
55 Cambrian Avenue. Circa 1929 6BR/5BA Mediterranean Piedmont Estate. George Millirons (510) 339-9290

PIEDMONT
Sunday 1-4 \$1,195,000
21 Bonita 3BR/2.5BA, ex location, fab kitch & gardens, fam rm, FP, gar. Cunningham Team (510) 428-0900

NEW PRICE! \$1,189,000
505 Scenic, 1/2 acre, private, 4BR/3BA, sunsets, nature. Scott Thompson (510) 428-0900

OAKLAND

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,200,000
4350 Bridgeview Drive. Charming 3+BR/2BA. 1920's Mediterranean retreat. Heidi Marchesotti (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4:30 \$830,000
1992 Magellan Dr. 4BR/2BA on level lot above village. HWF, FP, FDR. Lg. patio, dbl gar, lots of storage. Barry Klein (510) 845-0211

OAKLAND
Sunday 1-5 \$827,000
8140 Surrey Lane. Contemporary 3BR/3BA w/gorgeous floorplan. Susan Lambert (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$799,000
2700 Las Aromas. Mid-century 3BR/2BA architectural gem in Piedmont pines. Leah Tounger (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND
Sat & Sun 2-4 \$789,000
1240 Bates Road. Sunny inviting 3BR/2BA Spanish Mediterranean. MaryDresser.com (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-5 \$669,000
1819 Gouldin in Montclair. 2+BR/2BA on 11,000 sq. ft. lot! Near Village & Schools. Updated kitch. Vickie & Aleso (510) 428-0900

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4 \$599,000
1839 11th Ave. Sgl fam home converted to duplex. 2BR/1BA & 1BR/1BA, Nr. Lk. Merritt. Kathy Dittmer (510) 428-0900

OAKLAND
Sunday 1:30-4 \$575,000
201 4th St. #306. 2BR/2BA loft views, parking, storage. Close to shops. Maria Cavallo-Merrion (510) 868-1400

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4 \$575,000
1299 78th Ave. Lovely newly built 5BR/3BA home! Must see! Reaching Prize (510) 337-8670

OAKLAND
Sunday 1-4 \$569,000
585 9th St. #307. 2BR/2BA. Downtown Stylish new condo! Close to BART, cafe. Jake McTigue (510) 868-1400

OAKLAND
Sunday 2-4 \$369,000
5604 E. 17th St. 3BR/1BA, Great potential. Frances Russell (510) 868-1400

ALAMEDA

ALAMEDA
Sunday 1-4 \$589,000
1528 Broadway. Large 2+BR/1BA. Great school & Close to everything. Ny Ungvarsky (510) 717-6785

BERKELEY
Sunday 2-4 \$825,000
608 San Miguel 3 BR, 2BA w/in-law & beautiful garden. New Listing. Terrence Jue (510) 868-1471



BERKELEY
Sunday 2-4:30 \$575,000
1730 Highland. Charming 1BR condo in N. Berkeley, wall of windows & woods. Barbara Reynolds (510) 868-1400

BERKELEY
Sunday 1-4 \$459,000
Cute Bungalow Lge. 2BR/BA, Frpl in liv. rm, din rm with Crown molding. Eat-in-kit. Close to Hwy. 80. Leila Logene Butler (510) 868-1400

BERKELEY
Sunday 1-4 \$459,000
2418 5th St. 1BR/1BA, Lv/wk loft in 2 unit bldg. w/lush prvt garden. www.anitabecker.com (510) 868-1400

BERKELEY
Great Location \$565,000
3BR/2BA, upgraded kit, lam. flr, frpl, lg. yr, mature fruit trees. Kathy Gil (510) 276-2020 x 122

BERKELEY
Great Location \$565,000
3BR/2BA, upgraded kit, lam. flr, frpl, lg. yr, mature fruit trees. Kathy Gil (510) 276-2020 x 122



HAYWARD
Sunday 12-2 \$499,000
1460 171st Ave. Great starter home. Nice and clean, move in cond. Gregory Garrett (510) 868-1400

HAYWARD
Move Right In! \$59,950
Mobile hm, Sr. Prk, 1BR/1BA, 700 sq. ft., well maintained, must see! Kathy Gil (510) 276-2020 x 122

HAYWARD
Mobile Home Fmly Pk \$45,000
1BR/1BA, corner lot, upgraded, Indry area w/storage - CASH. Kathy Gil (510) 276-2020 x 122

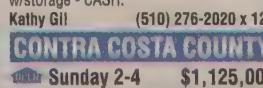
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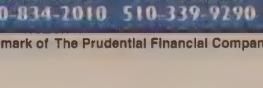


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Sunday 2-4 \$1,125,000
8623 Thors Bay Rd, El Cerrito. Pano Bay Views! Contemporary w/4BR/2.5BA, garden, Roy Grigsby (510) 845-0211

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This week's Open Home Guide can be found on B19.



OPEN HOUSE
Sunday August 27th
2:00 - 4:30pm



NAHID NASSIRI
"Your Best Move"



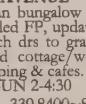
226 29th Street in Oakland

From the hardwood floors with decorative, contrasting in-lays, to the stained & leaded glass windows & cabinets, this 1920's 2 bedroom 1 bath Craftsman home will delight you with its original period details. This home features an open, traditional floor plan with formal entry, an updated bath with new, period appropriate tiled floors, claw foot tub and pedestal sink, a large kitchen, closets and basement with ample storage, a backyard with brick-lined garden and patio/deck, and a detached two-car garage. Convenient access to Piedmont Avenue shops, Lake Merritt, freeways, and the future Whole Foods. Offered at \$675,000

Please visit this fine property on the web at www.NahidNassiri.com

510.339.4550 (Direct) 510.339.8400 (Office) nahid@nahidnassiri.com

The logo for Scout is centered on a dark, textured background. It features a stylized flag icon with a white pole and a white triangular flag, positioned above the word "SCOUT" in a large, white, serif font. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

	\$679,000	OAKLAND 8342 NEV AVENUE PRICE REDUCTION! Motivated seller. Great for 1st time buyer or investor. Peaceful neighborhood, 3 nice sized bedrooms & 1 bath. Large level backyard great for entertaining, view. OPEN SUN 2-4:30	\$499,000
REET View home! Lots of office and separate charming 1923 details. 3:30 See virtual tour at 339-8400-482.9000		Wilbert Ross 339.8400~899.6374	
	\$679,000	OAKLAND 3405 HELEN #10 Breezy condo w/low energy bills, views, morning light & bay breezes. Sellers will pay 1 year HOA dues. OPEN SUN 1-4 Photos at www.3405Helen-10.com	\$449,000
OWER OUSE RD 1928 bungalow with bath, formal dining & French door to back yard. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 339-8400~482.9000		Seki Chikami 339.4000~858.7669	
	\$675,000	RICHMOND 537 17TH ST. Cozy 2bedroom/1bath, nice yard with sprinklers & storage shed. Walk to BART. OPEN SUN 2-4:30: Pamela Aziz 339.4000~899.6367	\$349,000
ET ly 2bd/1ba Craftsman details. Featuring hdwd LR, pocket doors to w/built-ins. Big kitch, very yard, two-car grg. ahdiNassiri.com 339.8400~339.4550		APPPOINTMENT	
	\$650,000	REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$1,028,000 4224 REINHARD DRIVE Hdwd flrs/marble/granite, great room w/ fp, 1 bonus rm, eat-in kit, master ste w/fplc & bath w/hot tub. Individ. bdrm balconies. Ken Nwokedi 339.4000~485.5119	
AVENUE an bungalow w/built-in FP, updated kitch ch drs to grassy back ed cottage/workshop. OPEN 2-4:30 339.8400~899.6366		OAKLAND \$615,000 1635 81ST AVE Great income property! Nice duplex 3bd/2ba on each side. Well maintained with cooperative tenants! A must see! Lila Owens 339.4000~899.6315	
	\$549,000	MILLSMONT \$599,000 5455-57 MACARTHUR BLVD Smart investment starter! Professionally managed property w/ garage & security system. 1950's construction. 2/1 & 1/1 units. Sue Caro 339.8400~339.4284	
ER) VE EDI! Fabulous 3bd/1ba at the end of a cul-de-sac. OPEN SUN 2-4:30		LOT FOR SALE \$550,000 PIEDMONT PINES One of last available lots in Piedmont Pines, approx. 29,500 sq. ft. All reports available incl. plans for 2,800 sq ft 3bd/2.5ba home. Mary Hanna 339.8400~339.5776	
	\$549,000	HERCULES \$419,950 264 NAPOLI CT Beautiful & spacious ground floor condo. Large master suite, 2 decks overlooking hills & clubhouse. Immaculately cared for. Complex has pool & spa. Quiet & comfortable, you're home!	
EL CERRITO \$699,000 1120 LAWRENCE COURT Wow! Spacious custom 4bd/2.5ba on quiet cul-de-sac. Spacious yd. Sunny kitch/fam rm. 2 car grg + more. OPEN SUN 2-5			

Are You Newly Licensed?

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first!

★ ★ NEW ROCKRIDGE LISTING! ★ ★
★ ★ Open House - Sunday, August 27th, 1-5pm ★ ★



Stunning Brown Shingle
5526 Taft Avenue
Offered @ \$1,450,000

ONLINE TOUR @ www.5526Taft.com

Ron Kriss, Broker
510-547-5970 Ext 55 ronkriss@jps.net



WELLS & BENNETT
REALTORS

1451 LEIMERT BLVD., OAKLAND

(510) 531-7000

www.wellsandbennett.com

Cabins, Condos, and Luxury Home Rentals Available Now in Lake Tahoe! 800-858-2463

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00PM-4:30PM



255 LEE STREET \$745,000
Adams Point. 3BR/2.5BA Luxury Penthouse, wood floors, granite kitchen and bath.

Patsy Buhler and Kevin Kennedy 531-7000



56 NEWHALL STREET \$550,000
Hayward. Lovely Huntwood area ranch home built in 1954. 3BR/2BA. Beautiful oak floors, new master bath, fresh interior paint, landscaped. Move in!

Michaela Shanahan 531-7000 x260

7481 WOODROW DRIVE \$710,000

Montclair. Classic Montclair Traditional, 2+BR/2BA with large rooms, hardwood floors, formal dining room, fireplace in living room. Bonus room can be 3rd bedroom or office. Super spacious, almost level fenced back yard!
Tracy Butler 531-7000 x232



500 VERNON STREET #315 \$315,000
Adams Point. 1BR/1BA Very light, new carpet, fixtures, pool exercise room.

Patsy Buhler 531-7000 x238

4751 FAIR AVENUE \$639,000

Oakland Hills. Beautifully updated 2BR/1BA, new hardwood floors, large family room, newer kitchen and bath. Double pane windows, deck and large level rear yard, 1-car garage and basement.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235



3133 CURRAN AVENUE \$560,000
Fruitvale. Perfect for anyone who wants extra space! The main house is a 2BR/1BA with lots of original architectural detail. The detached cottage has a studio room with kitchenette and bath. Large garage with work area and wall heater. Deep lot provides patio/bar-b-que area, fenced dog run and playhouse (needs repair).
Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292



THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THIS TRIPLEX! \$1,300,000

Oakmore. One unit has 3BR/1.5BA, living room with fireplace, and dining room, another is 2BR/1BA with living room with fireplace, and dining room, and the 3rd unit is 1BR/1BA with a living and dining room. All have great detail and charm!

Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000 x204

RESIDENTIAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE

Our Approach: Listen carefully to the clients' needs, then provide streamlined, highly responsive service to the borrower, realtor, or developer. Ask us about our 15 day close guarantee. For further information, please contact...

Tom Roberts, Branch Manager 531-7005

BY APPOINTMENT

SIX UNITS IN RAPIDLY DEVELOPING AREA \$1,120,000

Lower Temescal. 5-2BR/1BA units and a studio in a well maintained, low maintenance building. Laundry on premises. Off-street parking. Located near Kaiser Hospital, BART, Pill Hill, and Piedmont Avenue.

Kevin P. Kennedy 531-7000 x204

CLAREMONT FIXER \$888,000

Oakland. Super Claremont District, 5BR/3.5 BA.

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

VIEWS! VIEWS! \$857,500

Oakmore. Spectacular view, 50's Contemporary 2BR (possible 3BR), 2BA. Oak floors. Great kitchen, workshop, storage, needs updating.

Ron Colyar 531-7000

4-UNITS DOWNTOWN \$825,000

Jack London Square. Commercial building near old town district of Oakland. Queen Anne Victorian with loads of charm. 2-Story, wonderfully restored, though needing minor refurbishing. PCR available and delivered vacant.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

PRICE REDUCED! \$579,000

Montclair. Montclair fixer on great street. Pretty creekside setting, 4BR/2BA, family room. Needs structural work and lots of cosmetics.

Chris Christensen 531-7000 x242

CHECK THIS OUT! \$265,000

Grand Avenue. Spacious 1BR top floor condo. Tastefully updated kitchen and bath, designer colors, green outflow, security parking, pool.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

LAND FOR SALE

LEVEL LOT \$875,000

Oakland. Mostly level lot with San Francisco and Bay view. Preliminary drawings for 4600 sqft house.

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

LOOK AT THIS! \$485,000

Skyline. Marvelous down slope with approved Design Review plans. This is permit ready! View www.ElvertonLot.com.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

JEWELL COURT \$429,000

Oakland. Traditional home design with Design Review approval, approximately 4600 sqft with possible bay view.

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

DOWNTOWN OAKLAND \$425,000

Fruitvale. Fantastic growing area. Area of new businesses and new condos and homes. Very desirable neighborhood. Utilities in street.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

LAND FOR SALE

WILBUR ROAD

\$389,000

Oakland. 1/4 Acre parcel zoned for 15-units, level and gentle slope.

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

LARGE LOT/GENTLE UPSLOPE \$380,000

Trestle Glen. Utilities in street and within a very good school district and neighborhood.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

PANORAMIC BAY VIEW \$350,000

\$350,000

Lincoln Heights. Least expensive bay view lot in the Oakland hills. Down slope lot with utilities at street. Large street frontage and SFR zoned.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

DOWNSLOPE \$349,000

\$349,000

Oakland. With 62' frontage, current sun and design review drawings in the works

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

.23 ACRE LEVEL LOT \$299,000

\$299,000

Oakland. Zoned high-density, 3-4 units possible

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

BAY VIEW LOT \$250,000

\$250,000

Claremont. Behind Claremont Hotel. Gentle down slope with south bay view and possible city view. Price just reduced! Area of Simi homes.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

MONTCLAIR LOT WITH BUILDING APPROVAL \$235,000

\$235,000

Oakland. A 2660 square foot Spanish Villa with approved building plan all utilities in street.

Thomas Hennigan 531-7000 x235

LAND IN MONTCLAIR \$189,000

\$189,000

Montclair. Large up slope lot in Montclair. Close to Village in quiet area.

Nicolette Bot 531-7000 x235

MARIN COUNTY-NEW LISTING \$185,000

\$185,000

Marin. 3 Lots for one low price. Located on Shoreline Hwy near Muir Woods. Conceptual home drawings available but not approved.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

3 CONTIGUOUS UP SLOPES \$155,000

\$155,000

Oakland. In rapidly developing neighborhood. 1 or all 3. Lots 3057 and 3058 at \$155Kea and 3055 at \$148K.

Gerald Cheney 540-8566

TWO MONTCLAIR LOTS \$125,000

\$125,000

Montclair. Best price in Montclair. Priced below comps. Upslope lot in an area where many new homes are under construction.

Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

WWW.BAGSHOTTE.COM

Piedmont Pines. 4 Contiguous up slope lots with approved Design Review plans and two well survey, soils and topo. Buy one, two, three or four.

Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x235

Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section. The first place to look when looking for a new home.

SOLD • SOLD • SOLD

We are proud to announce the recent sale of this magnificent Kensington Estate nestled on its own hilltop with panoramic views. We represented the sellers and received multiple offers within 14 days of the initial marketing period. Let us know if we can provide you with a consultation on the sale of your home! We look forward to helping you with any of your real estate related needs!

Originally offered at \$1,995,000



444 Yale Avenue, Kensington



COLETTE FORD
510.823.5735

The GRUBB Co.
REALTORS

FORD/PLOWRIGHT
510.652.2133/471
GRUBBCO.COM



ANJA PLOWRIGHT
510.593.8376

OPEN HOUSE

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30 PM

COLDWELL
BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

320 LEE STREET #706

Walls of glass overlook fabulous views of Lake Merritt from the living room and bedroom of this sophisticated 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo. Gorgeous parquet floors, spacious deck and beautifully updated kitchen. Great Adams Point location close to shops, restaurants and BART.

OFFERED AT
\$359,000



BONNIE ROSS
REALTOR®
510-339-4788
Photo tour @
bonnierosshomes.com

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

NEW LISTING - OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2-4:30PM

Y
our grand piano will have room to spare in the expansive double parlor living room of this turn-of-the-century Dutch Colonial atop Haddon Hill. There are 3+ bedrooms, 3 baths, a formal dining room, remodeled kitchen and bath, big master suite with fireplace, huge 2 car garage and landscaping to be envied. A must see property!



630 Haddon Road, Oakland
Offered at \$995,000

Fritz Hochfellner

510.338.1348

www.fritzellshomes.com

NEW LISTING - OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2-4:30PM

6357 Brookside Avenue, Oakland ~ Offered at \$1,500,000

The ever popular builder Mark Becker, designed this 4BR/3.5BA Mediterranean with attention to detail and fine craftsmanship. Built in 2000, this home has a gourmet eat-in kitchen, and is level-out from the formal dining room to the garden and patio. This property features a private au pair/guest/office suite with bath and separate entrance. Becker signature amenities; hand-troweled walls, beautifully arched doorways, rounded corners and a dramatic fireplace are incorporated in this wonderful home. Centrally located just minutes from BART, SF freeways, and College Avenue shopping and dining.



Dee Knowland
510.338.1318
www.DeKnowland.com

PACIFIC
UNION
GMAC Real Estate
ESTATES

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, August 27th
2:00 - 4:30pm



676 Calmar Avenue in Oakland

This fabulous 1921 bungalow, located in Crocker Highlands, has 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths and boasts rare views of downtown Oakland. Includes a formal living room and dining room, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors throughout, a bonus room perfect for home office or the kids, and expansive decks for al fresco entertaining. Close to Lakeshore amenities including specialty shops, coffeehouses, Saturday farmer's market, restaurants, and parks. Offered at \$789,000

Please visit this fine property on the web at www.676Calmar.com

510.899.6395 (Direct) 510.339.8400 (Office) ganice@mbhr.com

Ganice
Morgan-Austin
The Agent Who's
All About YOU!

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2-4:30PM



1767 Brandon Street, Oakland ~ Offered at \$575,000



Joan Dark

510.338.1316

www.pacun

JUST SOLD

39 Crest Road, Piedmont



This beautiful property sold with multiple offers after only 12 days on the market.

Originally offered at \$4,100,000



Would you like to know how I can make my highly successful marketing plan work for you? Please call me anytime at 510-338-1343

Kathleen Callahan

Represented the Seller

510.338.1343

www.kathleencallahan.com

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 & 27, 2-4:30PM

MEDITERRANEAN ELEGANCE

This large, beautiful, bay view 4BR/2.5BA Mediterranean home nestled in the Oakland hills captures a sophisticated feeling. A dramatic entry and living room welcome you with high ceilings and grand staircase. A gourmet kitchen, office, half bath, large family room with fireplace, and lovely rear yard complete the main level. Upstairs are: master suite with bath, 3 additional bedrooms plus full bath.

www.4288Terrabella.com



4288 Terrabella Way, Oakland

Now offered at \$1,219,000

Rich Gould

510.338.1347

www

www

CROCKER HIGHLANDS

OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2-4:30PM



1381 HOLMAN ROAD

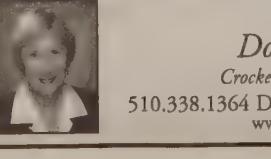
Delightful light-filled 1920's home featuring 3BR/2BA, fabulous master bedroom retreat with view, living room with fireplace, landscaped front garden, basement, and garage. Offered at \$789,000



1397 BARROWS ROAD

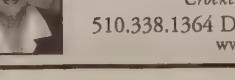
Charming split-level 1940's home. 2BR/1BA, sunny upgraded kitchen with adjacent laundry room, remodeled bath, fireplace, hardwood floors, garage and backyard. NEW PRICE!

Offered at \$645,000



1371 HOLMAN ROAD

Cheery 1920's Mediterranean-style 2BR/1BA, kitchen just remodeled, beechwood counters, newer baths, dining room, fireplace, hardwood floors. NEW PRICE! Offered at \$645,000



Dolores Thom

Crocker Highlands Specialist

510.338.1364 Direct 510.290.1218 Mobile

www.pacunion.com

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

OAKLAND HILLS

FIRST OPEN SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2-4:30PM



5586 Bacon Road, Oakland
Offered at \$1,695,000

This lovingly cared for custom built traditional is on the market for the first time since being built in 1958. Situated on over one acre, the home has the feel of a private resort with its decks, pool, and expansive indoor-outdoor areas. A gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room is the heart of the house and lends itself to gracious entertaining. From the formal living and dining rooms to the large sunroom this home is a joy to live, work and play in! 4+bedrooms, 4 baths.

NEW REDWOOD HEIGHTS LISTING

OPEN SAT. & SUN., AUGUST 26 & 27, 2-4:30PM



3625 Harbor View Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$549,000

Move-in to the tranquility, privacy and old world charm of this light filled bungalow with professionally landscaped yards. Features include large front porch, back decks, mature fruit trees, remodeled kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, updated bath, and a large lot size in a desired neighborhood. For more information see www.3625harborview.com.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

OAKLAND HILLS \$3,995,000

4615 ROCKINGHAM CT.

Humor of modern art and workmanship, spectacular 4 bridge views. Grand courtyard, sun-drenched. Sumptuous theater and wine room w/ fireplace & 50s style soda fountain, separate beautiful gardens. French Heath x1351

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$2,500,000

335 MANCHESTER AVE.

Wonderful 4+BR/4+BA Traditional w/ fabulous & new Master bedroom w/ fireplace, billiard room w/ fireplace & 50s style soda fountain, separate beautiful gardens. French Heath x1351

LAFAYETTE \$2,150,000

1966 QUAIL RIDGE RD. (Open 1-4)

Refined, ultra-sleek contemporary remodeled w/ an inspired eclectic flair. Unique stainless steel & stone floors, chef's kitchen. Glass-walled sunroom & sweeping views. Steven Biasatti x1379

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,649,000

124 COCHRANE AVE.

Fabulous contemporary on prime street. Uplifting design with high ceilings, fine details and generous spaces. 4BR/2+BA, game room, family room w/ fireplace. David Ichikawa x1351

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,595,000

337 HILLTOP CRES.

Stunning updated mid-century in serene setting w/ walls of glass to fabulous level-out patio, mature landscaping & bay view. 4BR/3BA. Dee Knowland x1318 & Jeffrey Neidelman x1385

UPPER ROCKRIDGE \$1,500,000

337 BROOKSIDE AVE.

Fabulous! Beautiful! Mark Becker designed 4BR/3BA Mediterranean built in 2000. Gourmet kitchen, formal dining room level w/ garden & patio. Dee Knowland x1318

BERKELEY \$1,350,000

1501 45TH ST.

Wonderful 4BR/3BA. \$145K price reduction! Fabulous & contemporary with sweeping San Francisco & Golden Gate Bridge views. Vaulted ceiling, private home office. Nancy Norman x1373

GLENVIEW \$949,000

1932 Mediterranean with superb archi-

tural details throughout. 4BR/2+BA, updated

kitchen, large family room opens to a deck & lawn, additional studio space. Lori Lombardo x1377

MONTCLAIR \$949,000

1501 45TH ST.

Dramatic 3BR/3BA Contemporary. Sunny &

quiet. High ceilings throughout. Large living room, kitchen/family room combo, decks on each level.

Top quality finishes. Dick Cohen x1308

NORTH BERKELEY \$900,000

1501 45TH ST.

Spectacular views and exquisite seclusion make this

1960's custom home an exciting challenge for just

the right buyer. Conservatorship sale requires court confirmation. Tour @ GiniErck.com x1339

MILLS COLLEGE \$699,000

1501 45TH ST.

Stunning 1926 "country farmhouse" set on

.25+ acres. Rolling lawn, "secret" gardens, front

porch with rocker, wood & hill outlooks. Eat-in kitchen. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

BERKELEY \$650,000

1501 45TH ST.

Fabulous, sun-filled three-level live-work

condominium. Two-plus bedrooms, two-plus baths. Soaring ceilings. Dramatic!

Nancy Norman x1373

BERKELEY \$649,000

1501 45TH ST.

Luxury 2BR/2BA penthouse loft condo in

The Sierra. Hardwood floors, limestone tiles,

stainless appliances, wall of windows, private terrace. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

JACK LONDON SQUARE \$649,000

1501 45TH ST.

Luxury 2BR/2BA penthouse loft condo in

The Sierra. Hardwood floors, limestone tiles,

stainless appliances, wall of windows, private terrace. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

BERKELEY \$649,000

1501 45TH ST.

Luxury 2BR/2BA penthouse loft condo in

The Sierra. Hardwood floors, limestone tiles,

stainless appliances, wall of windows, private terrace. Jeffrey Himmel x1307

BERKELEY \$649,000

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BERKELEY \$649,000

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1501 45TH ST.

Luxury 2BR/2BA penthouse loft condo in

The Sierra. Hardwood floors, limestone tiles,

Keeping track of the latest real estate activity? Don't miss the Weekly Sales starting on B8.

JUST SOLD

MONTICELLO AVENUE PIEDMONT

bedroom, 2-bath traditional with family room, great indoor-outdoor living. Sold in 1 week.

Agent represented the seller.

has successfully represented home buyers & sellers for over 29 years.

OFFERED AT
\$1,995,000



DIAN HYMER, CRS
Associate Broker
Previews Property Specialist
#1 Agent in the Oakland/Piedmont office
510-339-4777

Photo Tours at dianhymer.com

JUST LISTED

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30 PM

3719 RHODA AVENUE

arming home has all the right touches including wood built-in China cabinet in the dining room & bookshelves flanking a fireplace in the living room. There are two bedrooms and one bath. All wood floors have been refinished and paint adorns the walls. There is an eat-in kitchen and access to the front deck, the perfect spot to enjoy al fresco. The garden area is lush and close to Montclair with easy access to transport and shops. So welcoming!

OFFERED AT
\$559,000



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californiamoves.com

OPEN HOMES



CLAIR \$1,850,000
1470 TIVON DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
1/2+ Gracious Mediterranean built 4,000 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen/ 2 mstrs, hdwd. floor, 3 fireys, 2 car garage. **ROBERT** 510.339.4700

RICHMOND \$1,599,000
1450 RAVENVIEW COURT SUN 2 - 5
1/2+ Stuning views of G.G. & SF. Remodeled cul-de-sac. Luxurious throughout. **COPELAND** 510.486.1495

CLAIR \$1,495,000
1440 HILLTOP HILL RD. SUN 1 - 4
1/2+ New Priced Country Colonial style garden setting. Close to shopping. **DRAKE** 510.339.4700

CLAIR \$1,460,000
1430 RAVENCLIFFE SUN 2 - 4:30
1/2+ 1933 Traditional, family room, library, plus rooms, easy living. **LYONS** 510.339.4700

CLAIR \$1,385,000
1420 CEDAR CREST DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
1/2+ 1930's contemporary w/ big views, master suite, 2 fireys, formal dining room. **CLAYTON PARTNERS** 510.339.4700

CLAIR \$1,325,000
1410 BROWNSHEAD DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
1/2+ New construction w/ all the bells & whistles. Gourmet kit w/SS, granite, fireys, DR. Master ste. **ECKER** 510.339.4700

CLAIR \$1,195,000
1400 BROWNSHEAD DR. SUN 2 - 5
1/2+ built, open plan, soaring ceiling, hdwd. Bay **CLAYTON** 510.339.4700

CLAIR \$1,045,000
1390 BROWNSHEAD DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
1/2+ 1930's built, open plan, soaring ceiling, hdwd. Bay **CLAYTON** 510.339.4700

CLAIR \$1,045,000
1380 BROWNSHEAD DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
1/2+ 1930's built, open plan, soaring ceiling, hdwd. Bay **CLAYTON** 510.339.4700

OPEN HOMES



MONTCLAIR \$1,095,000
6129 WOOD DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
4 BR 3 BA PRICE REDUCED \$100,000!
Park-like setting, hardwood floors, fpplc, ideal location & more! **TERRY ANTHONY** 510.339.4700

OAKLAND/CLAREMONT HILLS \$1,149,000
6899 BRISTOL DRIVE SUN 2 - 4
4 BR 3 BA Spacious multi-level home has views, 2-story LR, formal DR, terraced yard! **CAROL GAMBLE** 510.486.1495

LAFAYETTE \$998,000
686 LOS PALOS DR. SUN 1 - 4
3 BR 2.5 BA Spacious family rm, kitchen, pool. Approx 2400 sq. ft. 1/3 acre. **RITA ZWEDLING** 510.486.1495

CRESTMONT HEIGHTS \$949,000
250 STANTONVILLE SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 3.5 BA Charming Traditional in Oakland Hills w/Bay view. High ceilings, hdwd. firs, landscaped yard. **NONI ROBINSON** 510.339.4700

LOWER OAKMERE \$849,000
1236 CLEMENS SUN 2 - 4:30
3+ BR 2.5 BA 1930's Tudor in great location. Lovely formal rms. Updated kit & baths. Pleasing gardens. **JULIE JOYCE** 510.339.4700

NORTH BERKELEY \$839,000
1249 SPRUCE STREET SUN 2 - 4
3 BR 2 BA Picturesque traditional, luscious landscaped gardens, wood floors, built-ins, new roof. **VICKY FAULK** 510.339.4700

BERKELEY \$799,000
1600 VIRGINIA ST. SUN 2 - 4
4 BR 2 BA Fantastic N. Berkeley Bungalow! Rare find in great location close to BART, park, shops! **NANCY REICHERT** 510.486.1495

OPEN HOMES



OAKLAND HILLS \$799,000
4455 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
4 BR 2.5 BA Newer const. Level yard, Bay views, gourmet kitchen w/granite, SS appl., lavish master suite. **DAVID ECKER** 510.339.4700

ALBANY \$795,000
1008 PERALTA AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Cozy & Spacious at the same time, large family rm. Master BD suite. Popular Albany area. **KATHIE LONGINOTTI** 510.486.1495

SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$749,000
655 TURNLEY AVE. SUN 2 - 4
3 BR 2 BA Wonderful curb appeal Spanish Mediterranean, large non-conforming space. Make this your special home! **DONNA CONROY** 510.339.4700

SAN LEANDRO \$749,000
561 JOAQUIN AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Charming craftsman. Liv rm w/ fpplc. Large private yard w/play structure. Hdwd floors, convenient location. **KARYN SELBY MILLER** 510.339.4700

EMERYVILLE \$699,000
1075 45TH ST. SUN 2 - 4:30
4 BR 2.5 BA Large & updated w/new carpet, paint, granite & more. Close to bus, freeway. Come see! **TERRY ANTHONY** 510.339.4700

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$659,000
4407 BENNETT PL. SUN 2 - 5
2+ BR 2 BA Just Listed!! Sunny & charming Span/Med w/Fam, LR, DR, hdwd firs, bonus/hobby rm & huge yard! **BARBARA HARDACRE** 510.339.4700

DIMOND \$569,000
3941 COOLIDGE AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Wood firs, vintage details, fabulous bkd, detached unfinished cottage, garage workshop. **VICKY FAULK** 510.339.4700

SAN PABLO \$564,888
2328 SHAWN DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Beautiful Tarhills Home Huge lot! remodel kitchen granite countertops 2-car garage, RV/boat. **ROUHI AKBARI** 510.486.1495

OPEN HOUSE

OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4:30 PM



250 STANTONVILLE DRIVE

Charming Traditional 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home located in the Oakland Hills with gorgeous Bay views, high ceilings, beautiful hardwood floors, and lovely landscaped yard. More features include a marble entryway, central vacuum system, dual zone heating, 2-car garage and a workshop/storage room. The rear yard backs to Regional Park for easy access to walkways and paths.

OFFERED AT
\$949,000



NONI ROBINSON
510-339-4780
nonirobinson1@yahoo.com

GARY ROBINSON
510-339-4712
garyrobinson1@yahoo.com

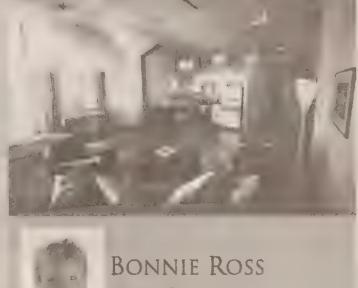


TOWER LOFTS BY APPOINTMENT

255 3RD STREET #202

Conveniently located in Jack London Square's warehouse district is this spacious 1 BD 1BA live/work loft. Features include stained concrete floors, private deck and spa like bath. Enjoy living in this central location close to restaurants, shopping & transportation.

OFFERED AT
\$485,000



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Photo Tour @
www.bonnirosshomes.com



californiamoves.com

OPEN HOMES



OAKLAND \$649,000
149 THOUSAND OAKS SUN 2 - 4
3 BR 2.5 BA Chic townhome, updated baths, new carpet, large yard, views. **STINA CHARLES-HARRIS** 510.486.1495

BERKELEY \$649,000
3234 BAKER ST. SUN 2 - 4
Remodel, new foundation, 2 bedrooms have separate downstairs entrance About 1 mi. to BART **BARBARA LEVY** 510.486.1495

HERCULES \$625,000
127 PINOLE ST. SUN 1 - 4
3 BR 2 BA Historic Victorian. Completely restored & renov. Near Bay & trails. 2 story, formal dining rm, deck, garden, porch, eat-in kitchen, CHARM! **MAXINE MALBERG** 510.486.1495

HAYWARD \$599,000
25906 CALAROGA AVE. SAT/SUN 1 - 4
4 BR 2 BA Beautiful updated home in desirable Southgate. Hdwd firs, dual-pane windows & landscaped yards. **KIMIKO TERRY & SEBASTIAN AGES** 510.486.1495

LINCOLN HEIGHTS \$599,000
2809 FRYE ST. SUN 2 - 4:30
2+ BR 2 BA Fixer on large lot & cul-de-sac. SF views. Plenty of space - over 2,400 sq. ft. Potential! **ROSE NIED** 510.339.4700

DIMOND \$569,000
3941 COOLIDGE AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Wood firs, vintage details, fabulous bkd, detached unfinished cottage, garage workshop. **VICKY FAULK** 510.339.4700

SAN PABLO \$564,888
2328 SHAWN DR. SUN 2 - 4:30
3 BR 2 BA Beautiful Tarhills Home Huge lot! remodel kitchen granite countertops 2-car garage, RV/boat. **ROUHI AKBARI** 510.486.1495



OAKLAND \$559,000
3719 RHODA AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Formal dining rm, eat-in kitchen w/access to deck & serene garden. Fireplace in living rm. **BECKY ANDERSEN** 510.339.4700

OAKLAND \$524,000
4546 VIRGINIA AVE. SUN 2 - 4:30
2 BR 2 BA Maxwell Park. Price Reduced! Light-filled Mediterranean, huge yard, French doors. **LAURA ARECHIGA** 510.486.1495

OAKLAND \$519,000
466 CRESCENT ST. 315 SUN 2 - 4
3 BR 2 BA Large, sunny deck, views, upgraded. Nr. Lake Merritt, restaurants & shopping! GDELDA.com **GENE DELLA MAGGIORA** 510.486.1495

BERKELEY \$489,000
LOVELY BUNGALOW! SUN 1 - 4
2 BR 1 BA Great fixer with huge yard for avid gardener. Needs work but has excellent potential to be a gem! **MICHAEL OH** 510.486.1495

OAKLAND \$479,000
8367 GOLF LINKS RD. SUN 2 - 4:30
2 BR 1 BA Serene, private, updated Great outdoor spaces, bright kit, beautiful setting, convenient location. **KARYN SELBY MILLER** 510.339.4700

ALAMEDA \$449,000
1008 GRACE COURT SUN 2 - 4:30
1 BR 1 BA Charming Mediterranean bungalow on cul-de-sac east of Park St. Hdwd firs, fpplc, brick patio. **TERRY ANTHONY** 510.339.4700

EMERYVILLE \$439,000
47 EMERY BAY DRIVE SUN 1 - 4
2 BR 1.5 BA Stylish 2-story townhouse in beautiful park-like setting. Patio off living rm. minutes to SF. **SALLY HENDRICKSON** 510.486.1495

GRAND LAKE \$399,000
388 SANTA CLARA AVE. 202. SUN 2 - 4:30
1+ BR 1.5 BA Great Location! Spacious floor plan w/ BONUS ROOM, fpplc, balcony, W/D, parking & more! **CJ BOYDSTON** 510.339.4700

PIEDMONT AVE. \$363,000
1 KELTON CT 6A SUN 1 - 4
1 BR 1 BA Sunny w/sweeping views. Close to shops & transportation. **JAMES BROWN** 510.339.4700

ADAMS POINT \$359,000
320 LEE ST 706 SUN 2 - 4:30
1 BR 1 BA Walls of glass overlook fabulous views of Lake Merritt! Parquet floors, deck, great kitchen! **BONNIE ROSS** 510.339.4700

BY APPOINTMENT

HERCULES \$1,250,000

VICTORIA BY THE BAY \$1,250,000

4 BR 3.5 BA Exceptional home! Sunny, open floor plan, landscaped yard, large mstr brm suite.

KIM & BARBARA MARIENTHAL 510.486.1495

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

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50-year

FROM PAGE B9

They say the loans do not cut the monthly bill by much. And the interest paid over the life of the loan is eye-popping.

For example, with a 30-year loan for \$275,000 set up as a five-year ARM at an interest rate of 6.58 percent, the monthly payment would be \$1,752.68, said Keith Gumbinger, vice president of HSH Associates, a mortgage-industry publisher in Pompton Plains, N.J.

Gumbinger assumes that such an ARM in a 50-year form would have an interest rate a quarter point higher.

So, at 6.83 percent, the monthly payment would be about \$1,618.95, a monthly cash-flow savings of about \$133.73, he said.

But the "gulp" comes in the interest paid over the term of the loan. For the 30-year loan it would be \$87,826.66, he said. For the 50-year it would be about \$93,306.32.

The balance after five years would be about \$257,666 (with \$17,334.20 in equity) for the 30-year loan versus \$271,169.23 (with \$3,830.77 in equity) for the 50-year loan.

"So the \$133 cash-flow improvement (\$8,023.80 over five years) has cost you an additional \$5,479.66 in interest, leaving a 'real' benefit of just \$2,544 and change."

"That \$2,544 benefit has cost you \$13,503.43 in equity you haven't built," Gumbinger said.

But Diaz and others in the mortgage industry argue that given the changes in consumer behavior, the term of the loan has, in some ways, become irrelevant. Homeowners have come to expect an ongoing cycle of refinancing or moving and often do not keep loans longer than a few years.

"In California, it is not common to meet somebody who has lived in a house for 30 years," Diaz said. "Maybe in my parents' generation that was so, but I don't think the marketplace today does that."

Long-term mortgages also may be a bellwether of changing attitudes about credit, say consumer debt experts, who add that holding a mortgage until the house is paid for is a phenomenon that went out at the turn of this century.

John and Carolyn Roberts, for example, planned to renovate the Arlington Heights, Ill., house they bought in 2004 with an interest-only loan at 100 percent of the home's value. Renovation costs exceeded their expectations, however, and in March 2005, they switched from the interest-only loan to a 40-year loan with a rate that was fixed for two years and had smaller monthly payments.

"We went to a 40 to keep cash flow going," Roberts said. "It was a bridge loan."

They finished the renovation in January, and swapped the 40-year for a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage.

"The mortgage market has changed drastically since I was a young man, where savings and loans would make the loan and collect principal and interest," said Roberts, who is 58. "In this day and age, they are selling the product and reselling it. Most homeowners never pay it off anyway."

And Roberts doubts that he will hang on to the 30-year loan until it is paid off.

"I'm thinking that in five years there may be a better product and I may refinance to get that," he said. "I have to think, closer to retirement, about cash flow."

Weisberg, of the Illinois Association of Mortgage Brokers, said more and more consumers recognize that they will not have one, and only one, mortgage over their lifetime. "There's clearly been a paradigm shift. Houses and real estate finance are disposable and interchangeable."

Part of that attitude change is due to the refinancing whirlwind fueled by low interest rates, said Robert Manning, research professor of consumer financial services at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

But it's also a sign of a generational shift, he said.

"There is so much more mobility in the job market now," Manning said. "It used to be you would get your reward by hanging in there for five to 10 years, so you were place-specific."

"But a lot of young people today know that the only way to get a bump in their salary is to move on to a new job," Manning said. "They are constantly in the job market, they have no idea how long they are going to be in one place and that's why ARMs are so appealing to them."

And consumers increasingly want to leverage their income into as many places as possible: homes, credit card debt, student loans, Gumbinger said.

There are lots of ways to go about it. In recent years lenders have opened the door to homeownership for many by rolling out a buffet of loan types that start with comparatively low payments.

To make those monthly hits more palatable, lenders lengthened terms. About a year ago 40-year loans became widely available al-

most immediately after Fannie Mae agreed to buy them from lenders, a seal of approval for mortgages.

"Loans with 40-year terms now comprise about 5 percent of the marketplace," Gumbinger said.

"That gets them up to sizable-niche status."

And now, we have the 50s, which are so new the industry has not yet developed a way to track their popularity.



OPEN SUN 1-4 PM

2808 Ashby Ave.
Berkeley

Classic 1910 Elmwood Craftsman
3BR/2BA, formal dining room,
sunroom, brick fireplace. Minutes
from College Avenue shops,
restaurants, BART.

\$969,000

Pat Hejtmank
RE/MAX C.C. Connection
925.548.1279

THORNWALL PROPERTIES INC



\$739,000 • 8060 Terrace Dr.

El Cerrito Hills, Kensington School, Bay Views!

Light and bright 3BD/2BA home features
beautiful hardwood floors, large deck, hot tub,
and lovely garden.

Open Sunday 2-4:30



\$399,000 • 3117 College Ave #1, Berkeley

Sunny Condo in Awesome Neighborhood
1BR condo in 6 unit building with 1918 charm
and good storage. Located between Rockridge,
Claremont and Elmwood!

510.848.1950
www.thornwallproperties.com

THORNWALL Properties

BERKELEY HILLS 510.524.98



Anne Hathaway's House

By Appointment

Enchanting 1926 3-bdrm, 2.5-bath home
reminiscent of "Anne Hathaway's cottage."
Gracious living rm w/high-beamed ceiling &
doors opening out to the grdn; this home will be
a prized possession to own. Sited on mostly level,
private 1.5+ acre parcel w/fruit trees, creeks,
gardens. Sep. 1+ bdrm guest cottage. Garage plus
detached parking structure. Truly a "one-of-a-kind" property!

Maya Trilling x18

\$1,950,000



1228 Evelyn Ave., Berkeley

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30

New listing! Enjoy the flexible spaces of this 2-story
2-story/2.5-bstair bdrms; updated bath;
living rm w/tp; hwd floors; large, open kit. w/
chef's range, sunroom opening to spacious deck
sheltered by a gracious tree; sep. laundry rm.
Downstairs is a 1-bdrm, 1-bath in-law unit w/own
entrance & kit. Priv. back grdn; freshly painted
inside & out. Close to Westbrae shops & public
transit.

Arlene Baxter x19

\$695,000



373-40th Street, #3, Oakland

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

Centrally located near BART & Piedmont Ave.,
this one-of-a-kind warehouse loft has original
wood beam ceiling, brick walls, radiant heat,
skylights & "green" materials. It looks onto
beautiful shared gardens w/wood-burning pizza
oven, outdoor fireplace, barbecue & koi pond.
1-bdrm, 1-bath & beautiful architectural details.
Pets welcomed.

Norah Brower x26

\$499,000

STYLISH TEMESCAL LOFT



Open Sunday
August 27th, 2006
2-4 pm

373 40th Street #3

Centrally located near BART & Piedmont Avenue, this handsome one-of-a-kind warehouse loft has original wood-beam ceiling, brick walls, radiant heat, skylights & interesting "green" materials. It looks onto beautiful shared gardens, with wood-burning pizza oven, outdoor fireplace, barbecue & koi pond. 1+ bed, 1+ bath, handsome architectural details.

\$499,000

Photo tour at www.373-40thst.com



Norah Brower

510.524.9888 x 26

norah@berkhills.com

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1123 Regatta Point, Berkeley

Enjoy a spectacular

resale of favorite

Victoria by the Bay.

Only two years old and in MODEL HOME condition. Flexible floor plan, high ceilings, crown moldings, luscious colors, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 fireplaces & optional pool pavilion. Offered at \$1,399,000.



Donna Madden

925-200-3714

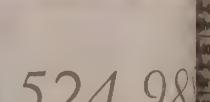
Leslie Vilfort

925-323-1406

Diana Parker

925-216-9117

www.PropertyMagic.net



1416 Devonshire Dr.

Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00

New listing! High in the El Cerrito Hills, this
private, beautiful home often offers Golden
Gate views, a fabulous green living room and
dining room, a eat-in kitchen, 4 bdrms, 3 baths,
laundry room. All in perfect condition.



Maya Trilling x18



1226 Brighton Ave., Albany

By Appointment

Central Albany at a great price, this 2-bdrm,
1-bath home is a treasure. It boasts original charm
and a large back yard. The location is great, close
to BART, Solano Avenue and in. The eat-in kitchen
leads to a private, enclosed back yard with a
large oak tree.

Bill & Tracy x33

"Since selling a house is not something I do every year, I was relieved to put my trust in such capable hands. I know you work extremely hard for your clients, and I feel privileged to be one of them."

-Y. H., El Cerrito

THE EAST BAY SPECIALISTS

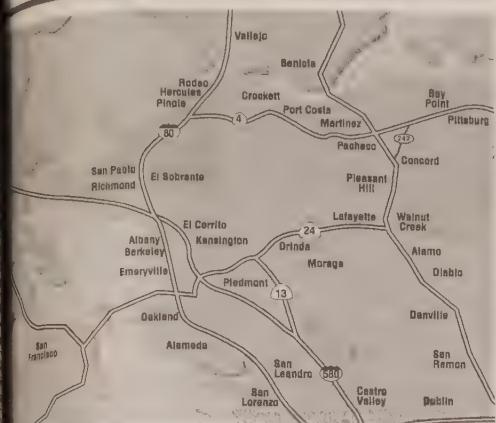
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The Journal & The Alameda Journal
Call 748-1688 or FAX 748-1679

Oakland			
6133 Fairlane Drive Montclair 1-4-60 Banker	4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-4700 Marlena S. Lyons	\$3,995,000 Open 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential	4615 Rockingham Ct. 6+BD/6+BA Oakland Hills 510-338-1331 Agent David Ichikawa
6357 Brookside Upper Rockridge 1-4-60 Union Residential	4BR/3.5BA 510-338-1318 Dee Knowland	\$79,900 Open Sun 1-4 Empire Realty Associates	23 El Toyonal 2BD/1BA 925-217-3118 Tom Doherty
14 Chancellor Pl Claremont Hills 1-4-60 Better Homes	4bd/3ba 510-339-4000 Ganice Morgan-Austin	\$969,900 Open 12-5 Pacific Union GMAC	358 El Toyonal 4BD/2BA 510-206-6763 Franko Ismen
Orinda			
5377 Hilltop Crescent Upper Rockridge 1-4-60 Union	4BD/3BA 510-338-1318/1385 D. Knowland/J. Neidelman	\$825,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	1607 Grand Avenue 3BD/2BA Piedmont 510-339-0400 Katherine Cooper
5234 Cochrane Ave. Upper Rockridge 1-4-60 Residential	3++BD/2++BA 510-338-1331 Agent David Ichikawa	\$975,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Pacific Union Residential	361 Moraga 4BD/2BA 510-338-1385 Cherie Corbin
5506 Bacon Oakland Hills 1-4-60 Union Residential	4+BD/4BA 510-338-1308/1314 D. Cohen/S. Klemmer	\$999,000 Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty	63 Wildwood Ave 3bd/2.5ba 510-232-2034 David Valdez
6339 Elverton Drive Montclair 1-4-60 Banker	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-4700 David Eckert	\$1,075,000 Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	66 Calvert Ct. 3 BD / 2 BA 510-579-2137 Kato Odorizzi
7075 Skyline Blvd Montclair 1-4-60 Bordens	4++bd/5+ba 510-381-1116 Mark P. Choi	\$1,125,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	1761 Trestle Glen Road 3BD/2BA Piedmont 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson
9535 Manchester Dr. 4++BD/4++BA Upper Rockridge 1-4-60 Residential	510-338-1357 Agent Francis Heath		

Piedmont				Richmond				San Leandro			
\$1,150,000 Open Sun. 1:30-4 Montclair Better Homes	1150 Winsor Ave 505 Scenic	3bd/1.5ba 4bd/3ba 3bd/2.5ba	925-683-8817 510-428-0900 510-428-0900	5126 Prather 2517 Roosevelt 6205 Ralston Ave.	2bd/1ba 2bd/1ba 2bd/1ba	510-662-8469 510-919-1712 510-527-9111	Gerl Stern Kathleen Wilson Maggie Reanick	\$459,000 Sun 2-4 Harbor Bay Realty	2523 Galleon Pl. 125 Marina Seagate	2 BD / 2 BA 510-414-4854 Donn Gutierrez	
\$1,189,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Prudential	505 Scenic	4bd/3ba	510-428-0900	2517 Roosevelt	2bd/1ba	510-919-1712	Kathleen Wilson	\$529,000 Sat & Sun 2-5 United Brokers	2516 Galleon Pl. Marina Seagate	3 BD / 2.5 BA 510-357-8800 Tere Lee	
\$1,195,000 Sun. 1-4 Prudential Piedmont	21 Bonita Ave Cunningham Team	3+bd/3ba Tbd/3.5ba	510-428-0900	6205 Ralston Ave.	2bd/1ba	510-527-9111	Maggie Reanick	\$531,500 Sat & Sun 2-5 United Brokers	2506 Galleon Place Marina Seagate	3 BD / 2.5 BA 510-357-8800 Tere Lee	
\$1,200,000 Open Sun. 2-5 Prudential Claremont	250 Estates Dr	3+bd/3ba	510-425-0211	526 Civic Center St	2bd/1ba	510-662-8480	Michael J.	\$559,000 Open Sun. 1-8 Prudential Montclair	2465 Cheshire Court Marina Seagate	3bd/2.5ba 510-339-4290 Michael Stephens	
\$1,225,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	40 Prospect Road	4BD/2.5BA	510-339-0400	2620 San Mateo St	2bd/1ba	510-595-7699	Dave Higgins	\$565,000 Sun 1-4 Harbor Bay Realty	14318 Birch St. Marina Seagate	3 BD / 1 BA 510-814-4823 / 814-8899 Nancy & Steve Brandt	
\$1,385,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	142 Arbor Drive	4BD/2BA	510-339-0400	645 39th St	3bd/1ba	510-527-9111	Mary Gray & Mykah Larkins	\$579,000 Sat & Sun 2-5 United Brokers	13925 Seagate Dr. Marina Seagate	3 BD / 2.5 BA 510-357-8800 Tere Lee	
\$1,445,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	114 Alta Avenue	4BD/3BA	510-339-0400	1080 McLaughlin St.	3bd/1ba	510-527-9111	Tony Wise	\$584,000 Open 1-4 Pacific Union Residential	224 Oakes	2BD/1BA 510-338-1335 Michelle Miller	
\$1,850,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	334 Wildwood Avenue	4BD/3+BA	510-339-0400	706 26th St.	2BD/1BA	925-788-2947	Tim Shields	\$639,000 Sun 2-4 Centennial Real Estate	15465 Heron Dr. Heron Bay	4BD/2.5BA 510-521-9392 Truyen The Dang	
\$1,889,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	325 Hampton Road	3+BD/3+BA	510-339-0400	5827 McBryde Ave	4BD/3BA	510-339-0400	Mavis Delacruz	\$659,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes	520 Palisade Ave	5bd/2ba 510-339-4000 Jim Schubert	
\$1,895,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	8 Langdon Court	3+BD/4BA	510-339-0400	547-549 5th St.	Duplex	510-290-8895	Jerome A. Leonard	\$679,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes	561 Joaquin Avenue Estudillo Estates	3BD/2BA 510-339-4700 Karyn Selby Miller	
\$3,500,000 Open Sun. 2-4:30 Prudential Montclair	55 Cambrian Ave	6bd/5ba	510-339-9290	5601 Esmond St	3bd/1ba	510-280-2009	Glauber Carvalho	\$839,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 Montclair Better Homes	1355 E. Juana	4bd/4ba 510-339-4000 Sherdella Sims	
\$619,900 Open Sun. 2-4 Red Oak Realty	1989 Shea Dr	4bd/2ba	510-280-2144	6073 Arlington Blvd.	3 BD / 2 BA	510-910-5204	Alameda Realty	\$849,000 Open 1-4 Pacific Union Residential	720 Lee	3BD/1+1/BA 510-338-1335 Michelle Miller	
Pleasant Hill				Rodino				San Lorenzo			
\$839,000 Open 1-5 Pacific Union Residential	113 Hazeltime Circle	4BD/2+BA	925-318-6412	\$899,000 Open Sun. 2-5 Red Oak Realty	1310 Mallard Dr	2bd/1.5ba	510-774-4231	\$524,999 Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Coldwell Banker	15865 Via Alamitos	2BD/1BA 650-948-0456 Sonika Kamal	
\$949,000 Open Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors	105 Pleasant View Drive	3+BD/3BA	510-899-8000	340 Harris	3BD/2BA	510-758-5637	Mark Lederer	\$559,000 Sun 2-4 Kane & Associates	541 Crespi Place	4 BD / 2.5 BA 510-410-6058 Marie Kane	
\$949,000 Open Sun 1-4 Alain Pinel Realtors	105 Pleasant View Drive	3+BD/3BA	510-899-8000	Prudential El Sobrante	3BD/2.5BA	510-339-8900	Gayle Langston	\$529,000 Open Sun 2-4 Coldwell Banker	2629 O'Donnell Drive	4BD/2BA 510-899-8000 Christine Breit	
Point Richmond				San Leandro				San Pablo			
\$1,599,000 Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker	518 Grandview Court	3BD/2.5BA	510-486-1494	\$588,888 Open 2-4 Prudential El Sobrante	14413 Seagate Dr.	2 BD / 1 BA	510-357-8800	\$564,888 Open Sun 2-4:30 Coldwell Banker	2328 Shawn Drive	3BD/2BA 510-486-1495 Rouhi Akbari	
\$1,599,000 Open Sun 2-5 Coldwell Banker	518 Grandview Court	3BD/2.5BA	510-486-1494	Prudential Montclair	Marina Seagate	2 BD / 1 BA	Tere Lee	\$399,000 Sat & Sun 2-5 United Brokers	75 Via Navarro Greenbrae	4BD/3Ba 510-271-8111 Lloyd Jung	
Property Out of Area				Point Richmond				Property Out of Area			
\$450,000 ea. Open Sun. 2-4 Prudential Montclair	1170 & 1180 Victoria Ave	2 HOMES	510-339-9290	\$1,345,000 Open Sun. 1-4 Marvin Gardens R.E.	75 Via Navarro Greenbrae	2 HOMES	Mary Dresser	\$450,000 ea. Open Sun. 2-4 Prudential Montclair	1170 & 1180 Victoria Ave	4BD/3Ba 510-271-8111 Lloyd Jung	

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ALAMEDA



2133 SANTA CLARA AVE. #212 \$398,000
The Spa Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 NEW LISTING. Very large 2 story townhome, 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and ready to move-in. Many new upgrades. Walk to Park Street shopping & restaurants!
 Ann Bracci 510-748-1807



1553 MOZART ST. \$694,000
Central Alameda Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Queen Anne cottage on tree-lined street. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal entry, period trim & hardwood floors. Large deck for entertaining.
 Ann Bracci 510-748-1807



1718 MAIN ST. #C \$385,000
Woodstock Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 3 bedroom, 1 bath townhouse with hardwood floors. One of the largest yards in Woodstock perfect for entertaining.
 Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



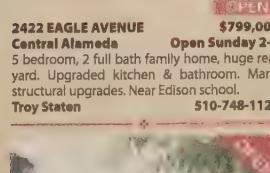
1715 HIGH STREET \$749,500
East End Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Huge Price Reduction! 3+ bedroom, 2 bath Tudor style home. Freshly painted, hardwood floors, formal dining room & a bonus room.
 Al Wagner 510-748-1123



2358 CORAL SEA STREET \$1,098,000
Bayport Open Sat & Sun 2-4
 Price reduction. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath 2-story floor plan w/spacious gourmet kitchen & family room. Fully landscaped yard.
 Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



2929 SEA VIEW PARKWAY \$1,289,000
Harbor Bay Open Sunday 2-4
 Fabulous Views of the Bay, SF, bridges & the hills. Large 4 bedroom, 3 bath executive home, master suite with fireplace & great outdoor entertainment options
 Ann Bracci 510-748-1807



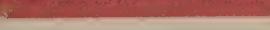
2422 EAGLE AVENUE \$799,000
Central Alameda Open Sunday 2-4
 5 bedroom, 2 full bath family home, huge rear yard. Upgraded kitchen & bathroom. Many structural upgrades. Near Edison school.
 Troy Staten 510-748-1125



3237 FAIRVIEW AVENUE \$689,000
Forrmida Open Sunday 2-4
 Price Drop! 2+ bedroom, 1 bath w/fresh interior paint, refinished hardwoods, fireplace & laundry room & cozy backyard.
 James Collins 510-748-1189



1036 LINCOLN AVENUE \$869,000
West End Open Sunday 2-4
 Beautifully renovated Victorian with the original charm. Updated kitchen w/cherry wood cabinets. Full Basement & attached garage.
 Eric Tam 510-748-1135



1533 PACIFIC AVENUE \$450,000
Central Alameda Open Sunday 2-4
 New Price! 1913 cottage practically all rebuilt. New bath fixtures, Berber/Pergo floors, two sheds & more! Expansion possibilities.
 Annaliza Ramirez 510-748-1195

Gallagher & Lindsey

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ALAMEDA



3 WASHOE COURT \$799,000
Marina Cove Open Sunday 2-4
 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac. Open floor plan with large kitchen and family room. A must see!
 Constance Farber 510-748-1126



339 BROADWAY #203 \$425,000
East End Open Sunday 2-4
 Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with views of lagoon & pool area. Close to shopping and the beach.
 Mario & Wendy Mariani 510-748-1174
 Joe LoParo 510-748-1169



1605 BUENA VISTA AVENUE \$845,000
Central Alameda Open Sunday 2-4
 Built in 2003, 3-4 bedroom home w/\$100K in upgrades. Landscaped courtyard, second patio. Steps to marinas & park.
 Iris Murillo 510-748-1105



1103 FOUNTAIN STREET \$669,000
East End Open Sunday 2-4
 2+ bedroom, 1.5 bath split level home. Inlaid hardwood floors, arched doorways, breakfast room, large deck. Near Otis School.
 Virginia Ambrosini 510-748-1138



955 SHOREPOINT CT. #212 \$325,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Great area near beach, park & transportation. Private balcony overlooks South Shore. Lots of summer left to enjoy the pool.
 Ruth Masonek 510-912-5055

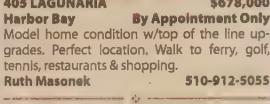


1605 WALNUT STREET \$485,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Victorian duplex: 3 bedroom, 2 bath and 2 bedroom, 1 bath. Newly renovated, 2 car garage, separate utilities. Near Park Street.
 Kitty Wan 510-748-1128

ALAMEDA



2394 MARINER SQUARE B9 \$455,000
Barnhill Marina By Appointment Only
 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath two story float home. Spacious LR on second floor with access to deck & views of the Estuary. Many upgrades.
 Angela McIntyre 510-748-1121



405 LAGUNARIA \$678,000
Harbor Bay By Appointment Only
 Model home condition w/top of the line upgrades. Perfect location. Walk to ferry, golf, tennis, restaurants & shopping.
 Ruth Masonek 510-912-5055



807 HAIGHT \$799,000
Alameda By Appointment Only
 4+ bedroom, 3 bath home formal living room, fireplace, formal dining room, office, new kitchen & separate living space downstairs.
 Darlene Gardner 510-748-1104



389 ANCHOR WAY \$525,000
Ravens Cove By Appointment Only
 PRICE REDUCTION! Single level 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with walking paths to the water, pool and clubhouse.
 Steve DiGiulio 510-748-1171



325 KITTYHAWK ROAD #317 \$439,000
South Shore By Appointment Only
 Bright & airy condo - Newly remodeled kit & bath; hardwood floors, enclosed balcony - 3rd floor, 1/2 block from beach.
 Joan Ceconi 510-522-9100



1435 WEBSTER STREET \$1,600,000
West End By Appointment Only
 Vacant lot mixed use/commercial, huge potential in amazing West End location.
 Jim Collins 510-748-1189



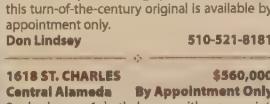
1214 NINTH STREET \$649,000
West End By Appointment Only
 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage style home with interior totally remodeled. Master suite, featuring full basement potential.
 Moon Tam 510-747-1620



451 CENTRAL AVENUE \$679,000
West End By Appointment Only
 Two 1 bedroom units w/lot's of upgrades. Approved blueprints w/permits for additions.
 Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



1200 SAN ANTONIO AVENUE \$2,595,000
Gold Coast By Appointment Only
 One of the largest and most magnificent homes in Alameda's historic Gold Coast is here. Over 6000 sq. ft. of living space on four levels, this turn-of-the-century original is available by appointment only.
 Don Lindsey 510-521-8181



1618 ST. CHARLES \$560,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 2+ bedroom, 1 bath home with new paint, formal living room w/fireplace, hardwood floors and a nice yard.
 Darlene Gardner 510-748-1104



1238 VERSAILLES AVENUE \$2,147,000
East End By Appointment Only
 Charming B&B, declared a City Historical Monument. Elegant guest rooms. Many upgrades.
 Evelyn Kennedy 510-748-1120



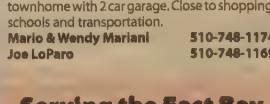
2282 JOHN COURT \$699,000
Castro Valley By Appointment Only
 Duplex investment opportunity, large landscaped backyard with patio and plenty of parking space in rear of units.
 Sandi Hamilton 510-748-1192
 Annaliza Ramirez 510-748-1195



4 ECLIPSE COURT \$739,500
Marina Village By Appointment Only
 Bright & sunny 3 bedroom, 2 bath on level with vaulted ceilings and hardwood floors. Partial view of the water.
 Bill & Griselda Bissell 510-748-1108



311 SANTA CLARA AVENUE \$769,950
West End By Appointment Only
 Tudor Revival with great curb appeal. 3 bedroom, 1 bath home perfect for a family & a rear 1+bedroom cottage.
 Darryl & Yolanda Freeman 510-748-1165



3573 SHADOW BROOK \$675,000
Sequoia Crossing Open Sunday 2-4
 Ready to move in 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath new townhome with 2 car garage. Close to shopping, schools and transportation.
 Mario & Wendy Mariani 510-748-1174
 Joe LoParo 510-748-1169



2833-2835 25th AVENUE \$649,000
Oakland Open Sunday 1:30-4
 2 houses on one lot. Front house is a 3 bedroom, 1 bath with fireplace, full basement & attached garage. Back house is 6 years new, 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath.
 Moon Tam 510-747-1620



3718 COLUMBIA DRIVE \$545,000
King Estates Open Sunday 2-5
 2 bedroom, 1 bath home, hardwood floors, arched doorways. Long driveway, detached garage, serene neighborhood & near 1580 and 113.
 Kirk Knight 510-748-1168



301 24th STREET \$140 & 141
Richmond By Appointment Only
 Two units in great Richmond area. 2 bath and a 1 bedroom, 1 bath sellers!
 Jose Cerdá-Zein 510-523-2211
 Meredith DiVita 510-523-2212

107 CROW PLACE \$140 & 141
Oakhurst Open Sunday 2-5
 On the beautiful Oakhurst Golf Course. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage, large back yard, deck, and a large sunroom. Large back yard, deck, and a large sunroom.
 Raye Thielman-Pereira 510-748-1168

CLAYTON

1405 5th AVENUE \$140 & 141
Oakhurst Open Sunday 2-5
 On the beautiful Oakhurst Golf Course. 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 car garage, large back yard, deck, and a large sunroom. Large back yard, deck, and a large sunroom.
 Raye Thielman-Pereira 510-748-1168

OAKLAND

1075 E 33rd STREET \$140 & 141
Bella Vista Hill Open Sunday 2-5
 5+ bedroom, 2 bath home w/attic, extra large formal & dining room, large back yard and enclosed patio play area.
 Pacita Dimacali 510-748-1168

1405 5th AVENUE \$140 & 141
Oakland By Appointment Only
 Lots of potential in 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with studio in back and possible miss this opportunity.
 Roland & Coqui Basora 510-748-1168

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SPORTS

• Friday, August 25, 2006 •

Section C



MIKE MCGREEHAN
Staff writer

CL reunion great event

AN ERA of show-biz sports, multi-millionaire athletes and performance drugs, many of us are easy to look at the past with rose-colored glasses. Perhaps it is through those lenses that we look at baseball's Pacific Coast League before the arrival of the Giants and Dodgers in 1958.

Two Saturdays ago — Aug. 19 to be exact — the PCL Historical Society held its annual reunion at the Oakland Museum.

As always, the event was

informal, enjoyable and infor-

mative.

As usual, those attending

had plenty to see and buy, including books detailing league history. Slide shows and film

clips also highlighted the day.

Among the latter was a long-

written 1956 Vancouver

series postgame show fea-

turing manager Lefty O'Doul.

Countless, for those not fa-

miliar with yesteryear's PCL,

such as the Oakland Oaks

and 1953-55.

Most priceless of all, as al-

ways, were the recollections of

former players themselves.

A younger generation of

fans might recognize

Murphy as the voice of

baseball sports. Those steeped

in CL history also recall him

pitching for the Oakland

in the 1950s. During a

discussion, Murphy

of a game in Los Angeles

and his inside pitch to PCL

of Famer Gene Mauch pre-

dicted a brawl with the An-

glest he could laugh

at now.

The PCL Historical Society

reunions are happy occasions

especially in the announce-

ment of PCL Hall of Fame se-

lections and the presentation of

Hall of Fame plaques.

It's hard to belatedly receive

such an honor as the family of the

late Frank Kelleher, a 2004 in-

ductee and arguably the most

colorful player in Hollywood

baseball history.

The seven men named to

the PCL Hall of Fame this year

are posthumously — in-

cluding Eddie Basienski, Bert El-

li, Bill Schuster and current

historian Bill Weiss, whose

names all were announced in

media recently.

Also not present was

Tom Lasorda, who managed

the league four seasons and

two pennants before mov-

ing to the Dodgers.

Inductee Dominic

DiMaggio, a surprise guest at

the year's function, also didn't

receive his plaque earlier this

summer during a minor league

game in Pawtucket, R.I.

DiMaggio batted .326 in

11 seasons with the San

Diego Seals in the 1930s. A

1939 PCL MVP went on to

win the glove, bat and on

baseball in 11 seasons with

the Boston Red Sox from 1940-

41 to 1944. 298 major-league

and the seven-time American

League All-Star enjoyed a mag-

nificent career despite missing

several years during World

War II, a fact lost on the Na-

tion's Baseball Hall of Fame

and those who have yet to properly

value him.

Those in attendance saved

the loudest cheers for DiMaggio

and his childhood friend, Dario

Lodigiani, a reunion regular

who was on hand to receive his

Hall of Fame plaque.

Now 90, Lodigiani grew up

in San Francisco with DiMaggio

and played two stints with

the Oakland Oaks. Lodigiani

had a PCL career in 1935-

36 with the Oaks. Then — after

more in the majors and

in the service — he

joined the team in 1947.

Most of 1948, Lodigiani

was in the San Francisco

and 1949 and was part the

famous exhibition tour

of the

McGreehan, Page 2



SHERRY LAVARS/STAFF

KENNY SALYER, an ex-El Cerrito High School baseball star, has come back from Tommy John surgery in 2003 and is looking forward to his senior year at San Francisco State.

All the way back

Salyer excited about his future after overcoming elbow woes



KENNY SALYER had two saves in 10 pitching appearances for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Baseball Grays this summer.

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

It's been a long journey back to the mound for El Cerrito High School graduate Kenny Salyer. The 6-foot-1 lefthanded pitcher had Tommy John surgery in December, 2003, and threw his first pitch at a practice six months later. He didn't pitch many innings until July 15, 2005.

It appears that Salyer's injury woes are behind him. This summer, Salyer had a positive experience with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes Gray squad, and looks forward to his senior season at San Francisco State.

"I had to be real patient," said Salyer about his rehabilitation from the surgery. "It was a long process. I had a lot of support."

As an El Cerrito senior in 2002, Salyer had a 6-4 record for the Gauchos and competed in the summer for the California squad in the All-Star Sunbelt Classic Baseball Series in Shawnee, Okla. After redshirting his first year at San Jose State, he suffered a partial tear of the ulnar collateral ligament of his left el-

bow in June, 2003, then felt another snap in his left elbow during a pitch in the fall of 2003, Salyer said.

"It hurt so bad. Pain shot up my arm. I threw the ball in the dirt and nailed my coach," Salyer said. "When I asked my coaches what to do, they said pitch as pain permits. I kept pitching for two to three more weeks until I shut it down."

The surgery in December began a long healing process.

"(Before the surgery), I had nightmares about what my scar would look like," Salyer said. "I had come into surgery in great shape, and I lost a lot of that. I had no range of motion."

He threw his next pitch on July 1, 2004.

"The first day was the most depressing thing I've experienced. I didn't know where the ball was going," Salyer said.

Salyer said he pitched sparingly in fall ball for San Jose State in 2004, but his real return to competition was in the summer of 2005. A turning point in

See SALYER, Page 2



JERE' SUMMERS competed in the discus and shot put at the World Junior Track and Field Championships in Beijing.

Trip was great, but not the results

■ Summers gets to walk on the Great Wall of China, but she doesn't reach the finals in world junior track

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER

On her first trip out of North America, one of Berkeley High School graduate Jere' Summers' vivid memories from her recent visit to Beijing, China is a walk.

A very long walk.

"We went to the Great Wall," said Summers, "it's two days before the (women's) shot put qualifying competition at the International Association of Athletics Federations World Junior Track & Field Championships," and I walked one-and-a-half hours before I turned back. I shouldn't have done that. I wanted to go up and keep going up," Summers said.

Unfortunately for the incoming Cal State Northridge sophomore, she was not able to walk into the finals in either the shot put or the discus. She finished ninth in her heat of the shot put

get three final throws, but it was just the three (qualifying) throws," Summers said. "We practiced in a whole other facility. Usually we test out a ring before competition, but we weren't allowed to go to the competition ring until actual competition time."

— Jere' Summers

On Aug. 15 with a best mark of 47 feet, 1/4 inches, achieved on her first attempt. On Friday, she was seventh in her heat of the discus with a best mark of 150-9, achieved on her third attempt. The marks were well off her personal records of 51-5 1/4 and 160-7 respectively.

"I didn't compete well. I guess it was the three throws. I usually

was working on the discus technique of keeping both her arms level with the discus.

"I knew going into this meet that I needed to test this," Summers said.

There was no lack of excitement about the meet in Beijing, according to Summers.

"The city was really track town. There were track banners everywhere. They even played the track meet on the buses (on television). It was broadcast live," Summers said.

Summers qualified for the IAAF World Junior Championships when she finished second in both the shot put and discus at the USA Junior Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Indianapolis in June.

FISHING REPORT

PACIFIC OCEAN

Robert Gallia of the El Dorado said salmon fishing along the Marin coast has been quiet, with most of the local skippers reporting scores ranging from 1-5 salmon per boat. The low scores over the past few weeks have been the result of warmer waters and mackerel concentrated along the coastal areas. Gallia said conditions are changing as the marine layer and the push of cooler waters from the northwesterly winds is moving the salmon from the northern waters toward the range of the Berkeley fleet.

Meanwhile, cod fishing continues to be outstanding, as all departures since the season opened have resulted in limits of assorted rockfish, with scores of ling cod, averaging well over a fish and half per person at the Farallon Islands. The tuna fishing will break open this weekend as the weather conditions are predicted to be favorable offshore.

Craig Stone of Emeryville Sportfishing said action for the Bay Area salmon fleet has been slow for the last week, as they fished off the Marin County coastline. Just one or two salmon per boat have been the norm, with a lot of boats quitting early and changing over to rockfishing, which has been excellent. There should still be a lot of good salmon fishing to come, as more salmon make their way toward the gate. The question is when?

Rockfish and ling cod continue to be excellent near the Farallon Islands and off the Marin County coastline. On Tuesday out of Emeryville, three boats reported in with a combined 430 rockfish, 58 ling cod to 20 pounds and 250 sand dabs for 43 anglers. Shrimp flies have been the ticket for rockfish, and live bait or bars for ling cod.

Diana Nunez of www.berkeleymarina-paopfishing.com reports the Farallon Islands continue to be the favorite spot for rock and ling cod. The New Golden Eye with Capt. Trung Vo fished the Farallons on Saturday and Sunday and caught a combined 52 limits of rock cod and 86 ling cod up to 25 pounds.

Vo fished the Farallon Islands on Thursday and Friday and caught a combined 340 rock cod, 68 ling cod up to 20 pounds and 34 cabezon up to 8 pounds. They ventured north to Pt. Reyes and caught 28 limits of rock cod

Curtis Pashelka's Bay Area fishing report



POOR	Fair	Good	Great	Excellent
1. San Francisco Bay — Stripper action remains steady.	2. Martinez Pier — Tides should be favorable this weekend.	3. Mothball Fleet — Sturgeon fishing is improving.	4. Pittsburg Marina — Some sturgeon are being spotted.	5. Decker Island — One of many good spots for catfish.
6. Antioch Bridge — Some larger stripers are being had.	7. San Pablo Reservoir — Plenty of spots to catch catfish.	8. Lafayette Reservoir — Bass action on the upswing.		

and ling cod weighing up to 23 pounds. Tuesday, the boat had 14 anglers and caught 140 rock cod and 28 ling cod up to 32 pounds.

James Smith of the charter boat California Dawn fished the Farallons from Saturday to Monday as well as Wednesday. They caught a combined 146 ling cod, 93 limits of rock cod and one 50-pound octopus over the four-day stretch.

THE BAYS

SUISUN: Jordana Santiago of Martinez Bait & Tackle is reporting good fishing this week. More sturgeon have been reported from the Mothball Fleet and stripper still are being had from the Martinez shoreline and pier. The tides for the weekend are much better as well. Grass shrimp and anchovies are still your best

bets for stripper and grass and ghost shrimp are best for sturgeon.

Catching sturgeon were Trina Rincon of Concord (47 inches, 20 pounds) at the east end of the fleet on grass shrimp, Larry Giorgio of Livermore (63 inches, 87 pounds) on ghost shrimp at the last row, Mark McElhany of Porter (52 inches, 30 pounds) at Buoy 4 on grass shrimp, John Giuliano of Martinez (48 inches, 19 pounds) at the fifth row on ghost shrimp and Jack Lindsey of Antioch (49 inches, 23 pounds) at the mouth of the Napa River on ghost shrimp.

Randy Hedrick of Martinez bait caught a 20-inch stripper from the Martinez shoreline on grass shrimp. Many others caught but not reported.

THE DELTA

Chris Alldredge of Gotcha Bait and

shrimp and anchovies are still your best

tackle in Antioch said some bigger stripers, from 22-27 pounds, are starting to show near the Antioch Bridge and Pier. Catfish can be caught just about anywhere, from Holland Tract, Orwood's Resort and Decker Island. Sturgeon have been spotted in some areas but the bite hasn't been tremendous. A good place to try for sturgeon is the Pittsburg Marina. Black bass are being caught at Orwood's.

When fishing for catfish, the staff at San Pablo Reservoir, El Sobrante

Reported the water level remains low, but the catfishing is still good. Hot spots are the launch, the tower and in front of the main rec. area. Best baits to use are chicken liver, night-crawlers or anchovies.

Bass fishing is OK. Use swim baits, crank baits, green and white spinner baits. Oak Point or near the dam would be a good spot to try. Crappie fishing is also decent. The best spot would be the launch area. Mini lures, wax worms or meal worms work best. Trout fishing is pretty slow as the water remains too warm. No bluegill were reported. Use small worms or waxworms.

LOS VACUEROS, BRENTWOOD: The staff at Los Vacueros said largemouth bass and catfish action has been very good this week, keeping both boaters and shore anglers busy. Mini whackers and regular bushwhackers still have worked well for bass with a few plastic worms thrown in. The Rock Wall and Oak Point have still been the best spots in the early morning and late evening hours. Catching bass were Allen Minginod of Stockton (5.44 pounds) trolling near the sunken tree cove using a Senko worm and Tom Ing of Oakland (6.8 pounds) from shore near the rock wall using a Senko worm.

Catfishing is also picking up as several limits are pulled out of Honker Bay. Use chicken liver and mackerel.

When fishing at night, one of the best spots is the first dock on the west shore

trail. The closer the bait gets to the

bottom, the better. A sliding sinker with a 1-

or 2-ounce weight is the preferred setup.

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or 2-ounce weight is the preferred setup.

Trollers have found success sticking

a little closer to shoreline than weeks

and months previous. Trolling past Oak

Point and the Rock Wall has been produc-

tive this week. The depths you need

to be at vary, but start closer to the sur-

face in the morning and then fish a bit

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further out as the heat of

increases. The Calaveras

planted 1,200 pounds of

south cove on Aug. 19.

bluegill and Powerbait

along with small spinner baits

and

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10.48 pounds and 8.87

Chub of Oakland caught

salmon trolling with an

envelope.

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Sept. 2, \$6. \$5 unless otherwise noted. Shows start Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 5 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 924 Gilman St., Berkeley. 510-525-9926, www.924gilman.org.

■ **Albatross Pub** — Whiskey Brothers, Ongoing. Old-time and bluegrass. First and third Wednesdays of every month. Free. Sam Bevan Jazz Trio, Sept. 2, \$3. Shows begin Wednesday, 9 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473, www.albatrosspub.com.

■ **Ashkenaz** — Sister Carol with The Yellow Wall Dub Squad, Ras Itwane, Aug. 25, 9:30 p.m. \$17-\$20. Swing Coolers, Aug. 29, 8:30 p.m. 8 p.m.: Swing dance lesson. \$8. "Reggae Showcase," Aug. 30, 9:30 p.m. Featuring Abba Yahudah, Honourable, Nasambu, Buddha, Bobby Tenor, Love Fyah, Tony Moses and We A Dem Band. \$10. KTO Project with Musekiwa Chingodza, Aug. 31, 9 p.m. \$10. Junior Reid, Everton Blender, The Reggae Angels, Sept. 1, 9:30 p.m. \$17-\$20. Ray Abshire, Sept. 2, 9 p.m. 8 p.m.: Cajun dance lesson. \$13-\$15. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-525-5054, www.ashkenaz.com.

■ **Beckett's Irish Pub** — Blackberry Soup, Aug. 25. "Rock and Roll with Nicole," Aug. 26 and Sept. 2. Mundane, Aug. 30. Fun with Finnoula, Aug. 31, 2:30 p.m. 1. Free. Shows at 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790, www.beckettsirishpub.com.

■ **Downtown Restaurant** — Tera Johnson Quartet, Aug. 25. Rhonda Benin Quartet, Aug. 26. The Hot Club of San Francisco, Aug. 27. Jon Steiner, Sept. 1. Mac Blackman Quartet, Sept. 2. Free unless otherwise noted. Tuesday through Thursday, 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-3810, www.downtownrestaurant.com.

■ **Freight And Salvage** — "West Coast Songwriters Open Mic Finals," Aug. 25. Host Steve Seskun. \$17.50-\$18.50. "Great Night of Soul Poetry," Aug. 26. An evening of spoken word. \$18.50-\$19.50. Vicki Randle, Nina Gerber, Bonnie Hayes, Aug. 27. \$18.50-\$19.50. Lauri Lewis and the Right Hands, Aug. 31. \$18.50-\$19.50. Music starts at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761, www.freightandsalvage.org.

■ **Greek Theatre** — Train, Matt Nathanson, Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. \$38.50. Hearst Avenue and Gayley Road, Berkeley. 510-548-3010, www.apeconcerts.com.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center** — Otro Mundo, Aug. 25, 9 p.m. \$12; free 12 and under. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, www.lapena.org.

■ **Oakland Arena** — Red Hot Chili Peppers, Aug. 24 and Aug. 25. Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday, 8:30 p.m. \$51.75-\$55.75. Tool, Sept. 3, 8 p.m. \$51.50-\$65.75. Hegenberger Road and Interstate 880, Oakland. 510-762-2277, 925-762-2277, 415-478-2277, www.theoaklandarena.com.

■ **Oakland City Center** — "Oakland City Center's Summer Sounds Series," through Aug. 30. Noon-1 p.m. A free lunchtime summer concert se-

ries. Aug. 30: Natasha Miller. Free. Free, City Square Plaza, 500 12th St. at Clay Street, Oakland. www.oaklandcitycenter.com.

■ **Shattuck Down Low** — "Live Salsa," Ongoing. An evening of dancing to the music of a live salsa band. The night opens with beginning lessons at 6 p.m. and intermediate lessons at 8:45 p.m. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. \$10. Realistic Orchestra, Aug. 25, 9:30 p.m. \$10. Bayonics, Bay Watt Hype, Sept. 1, 9 p.m. \$5. Transristol, Sept. 2, \$10-\$12. For ages 21 and older. 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1199, www.shattuck-downlow.com.

■ **Starry Plough Pub** — The Starry Irish Music Session led by Shay Black, Ongoing. Sundays, 8 p.m. Sliding scale. For ages 21 and over unless otherwise noted. Sunday and Wednesday, 8 p.m.; Thursday through Saturday, 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-842-2002, www.starryploughpub.com.

■ **Yoshi's** — David Weckl Band, through Aug. 27. \$25-\$24. Nika Rejto, Aug. 28, \$6-\$12. Plena Libre, Aug. 29 through Aug. 30, \$10-\$12. "Elvin Jones Birthday Salute!" Aug. 31 through Sept. 3. Featuring Delfayo Marsalis, Dave Liebman, Nicholas Payton, Anthony Wonsey and Jason Marsalis. \$24. Shows are Monday through Saturday, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. 510 Embacerado West, Oakland. 510-525-5054, www.yoshis.com.

OUTDOORS

■ **Bay Area Rail Trails** — Ongoing. A network of trails converted from unused railway corridors and developed by the Rails to Trails Conservancy. Ohlone Greenway — ongoing. A 3.75-mile paved trail converted from the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail-

way. Suitable for walkers, strollers and skaters. It is also wheelchair accessible. The trail runs under elevated BART tracks from Conlon and Key Streets in El Cerrito to Virginia and Acton Streets in Berkeley. Shepherd Canyon Trail — ongoing. An easy 3-mile paved trail converted from the Sacramento Northern Rail Line. The tree-lined trail is gently sloping and generally follows Shepherd Canyon Road. Suitable for walkers and cyclists. It is also wheelchair accessible. Begins in Montclair Village behind McCaulou's Department Store on Medau Place and ends at Pasco Roads Drive, Oakland. Useable year round. Free. 415-397-2220, www.trailink.com.

■ **Bay Area Ridge Trail** — The Bay Area Ridge Trail, when completed, will be a 400-mile regional trail system that will form a loop around the entire San Francisco Bay region, linking 75 public parks and open spaces to thousands of people and hundreds of communities. Hikes on portions of the trail are available through the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. Call for meeting sites. Ongoing Events — Alameda County — "Lake Chabot Bike Rides." These rides are for strong beginners and intermediates to build skill, strength and endurance at a non hammerhead pace. No one will be dropped. Reservations required. Distance: 14 miles. Elevation gain: 1,000 feet. Difficulty: beginner to intermediate. Pace: moderate. Meeting place: Lake Chabot Road at the main entrance to the park. Thursday, 6:15 a.m. 504-488-3582. Alameda-Contra Costa County — "Tilden and Wildcat Bike Rides." A vigorous ride through Tilden and Wildcat Canyon regional parks. Reservations required. Distance: 15 miles. Elevation gain: 2,000 feet. Difficulty: intermediate. Pace: fast. Meeting place: in front of the North Berkeley BART Station. Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. 510-849-9650. Free unless otherwise noted; parking

"East Bay Benefit Ride," Aug. 31 through Sept. 4, 8 a.m. Ride up to 100 miles, or 14 to 18 miles each day, as you travel alongside the Ridge Trail for three days and spend the last two days heading toward Mount Diablo. All meals are provided for bikers and campers. Evening entertainment will include a trip to Chabot Space Observatory, campfires and music. \$55 per day; \$250 five days. 925-254-8942, www.twha.org. Free. 415-561-2595, www.nrdget.org.

■ **Cal Sailing Club** — "Free Sailboat Rides," through Dec. 10, 1-4 p.m. Enjoy a free sailboat ride with an experienced skipper at one of Cal Sailing Club's open house events. Children 5 and under prohibited. Aug. 13, Aug. 27, Sept. 3, Sept. 24, Oct. 8, Oct. 22, Nov. 26 and Dec. 10. Free. 124 University Ave., Berkeley. www.csail.org.

■ **Crab Cove Visitor Center** — At

Crab Cove, you can see live underwater creatures and go into the San Francisco Bay from land. The goal is to increase understanding of the environmental importance of San Francisco Bay and the ocean ecosystem. Crab Cove's indoor aquarium and Exhibit Lab is one of the largest indoor aquaria in the East Bay. Special Events — "Campground to Lake," Aug. 26, 3-5 p.m. Learn all about the lake's history and the creatures that call it home on this afternoon hike. Ages 7 and older. "Discover Lovely Lake Temescal," Aug. 27, Noon-1:30 p.m. Learn about the park's history on this one-mile hike. "Leisurely Labor Day," Sept. 2 and Sept. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 11 a.m.-noon: "Solar Oven Quesadillas," 2-3 p.m.: "Catch of the Day," 3-4 p.m.: "Nature Movie Clips." "Sun Day Fun," Sept. 3. Learn about the sun as you make sun prints and bake cookies in the Cove's solar oven. Registration required. 510-636-1684. Free unless otherwise noted; parking

fee may be charged. 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-521-6887, www.ebparks.org.

■ **Dunsmuir House And Gardens Historic Estate** — \$4-\$5. Nested in the Oakland hills, the 50-acre Dunsmuir House and Gardens estate includes the 37-room Neoclassical Revival Dunsmuir Mansion, built by coal and lumber baron Alexander Dunsmuir for his bride. Restored outbuildings set amid landscaped gardens surround the mansion. Estate Grounds. Self-Guided Grounds Tours are available year around. The 50 acres of gardens and grounds at the mansion are open to the public for walking Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 2960 Perla Oaks Court, Oakland. 510-615-5555, www.dunsmuir.org.

■ **Greenbelt Alliance Outings** — A series of hikes, bike rides and events sponsored by Greenbelt Alliance, the Bay Area's non-profit land conservation and urban planning organization.

Call for meeting places. Reservations required for all trips. Alameda County — "Self-Guided Urban Outing: Berkeley," Ongoing. This interactive smart growth walking tour of central Berkeley examines some of the exciting projects that help alleviate the housing shortage in the city as well as amenities important to making a livable community. The walk, which includes the GAIA Cultural Center, Alston Oak Court, The Berkeley Bike Station, University Terrace and Strawberry Creek Park, takes between an hour and a half to two hours at a leisurely pace. Download the itinerary which gives specific directions by entering www.greenbelt.org and clicking on "get involved" and then "urban outings." Drop down and click on Berkeley. Free. Unless otherwise noted. 415-255-3233, www.greenbelt.org.

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority

July 2006

Citizens Watchdog Committee 4th ANNUAL REPORT to the Public

CWC RECOMMENDATIONS

Although CWC has financial concerns regarding the AC and BART projects noted above under CWC Activities, CWC encourages Measure B voters to support the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) Measure B and the Measure B Transportation Fund.

CWC urges the voters to support the CWC review of the ACTIA and BART projects.

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROJECTS**

In order to ensure timely delivery of projects, the 2000 Measure B Expenditure Plan requires that projects be completed by 2006. The CWC urges voters to support the Measure B Transportation Fund.

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROGRAMS**

Regarding expenditures on local streets and roads, CWC expressed concern that some cities spent a very high percentage (more than two-thirds) of the funds received on administration.

At request of the voters, a separate audit shows ACTIA to be in compliance with the 4.5% cap on administration. The CWC urges the voters to support the Measure B, which mandates that 65% of the 16 administrative staff cost cap mandated by Measure B, for which we comment staff.

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROJECTS**

The CWC urges the voters to support the Measure B Transportation Fund.

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROGRAMS**

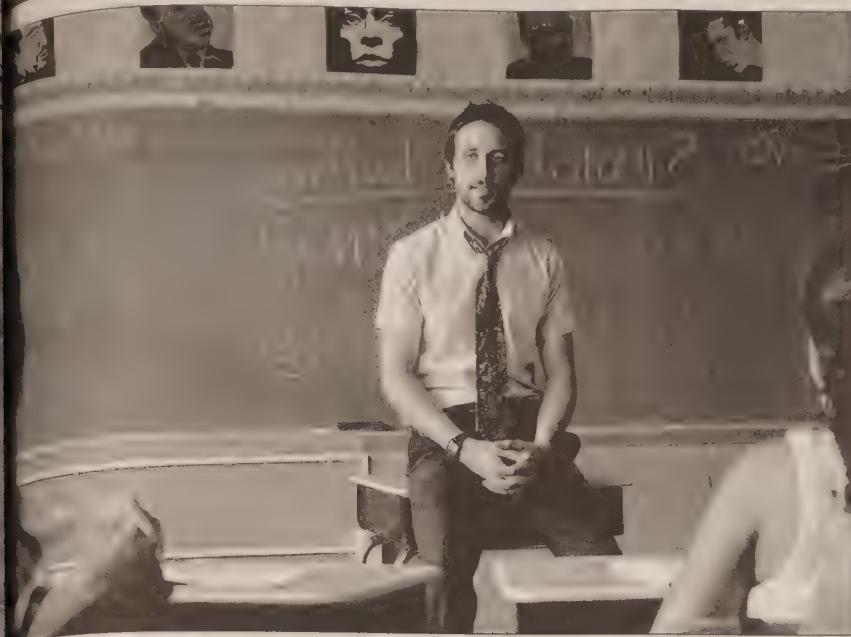
Total revenues for fiscal year 2004-2005 were \$10.3 million. Expenditures were \$88.5 million for the year ending June 30, 2005, broken down as shown in the pie chart.

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROJECTS**

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROGRAMS**

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROJECTS**

■ **KEEPING WATCH: PROJECTS</**



HALF NELSON plays a drug-addicted teacher in "Half Nelson." The film's story leaves lingering questions, about the characters and the

as they face.

Drug film wrestles with ambiguity

'HALF NELSON'

A-

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Sharea Epps, Anthony Mackie, Tina Holmes
Rated: R
Opens today: Shattuck, Berkeley; Embarcadero, S.F.; Rafael Film Center, San Rafael
Running time: 1 hour, 47 minutes
See the trailer at ContraCostaTimes.com

ing "Half Nelson" moral compass in the end

Mary F. Pols
AFF WRITER

Half Nelson is fiction, but it is subtle and potent, it lingers like some story told on the news. A few years ago, you see it, you catch thinking about the two characters, wondering what's going on with Dan, or Drey is doing OK.

As respectively by Ryan and Sharea Epps, Dan is teacher and pupil dressed and depressing middle school. It is not your average privileged-student-meets-teacher story. Dan is wise, but he doesn't teach to channel her inner violin solo her way to scholarship. Instead, it reveals to her the most bitter contract.

Dan teacher who comes from the set of his curriculum, Dan responds in a thoughtful, way. He describes the full of world conflicts in terms they can relate to him, and he is invested in discussing them. He shows them tapes of and explains "the to them, they point out the man, he's part of that. That's true, he is as students and citizens of the United States, so are no concessions, he speaks to them, so, they listen.

One of his quietest students is an EMT on long hours. Her dad comes around much, if at all, and she's been older brother for drug dealing. She's riding her bike in the city streets, playing with unwrapping a lollipop, a cautious, watching "Half Nelson," which was co-written by Brian Fleck and Anna and directed by Fleck (a

holes. Dan knows he should be this girl's moral compass, but he knows he's a terrible choice for the role.

The movie continually reminds us of the links between the worlds of drug dealers and drug takers, but without becoming an obvious game of connect the

dots.

It's only failure is at the end, which might be interpreted as a grasp for a shred of optimism that the story, in its brutal honesty, has put out of reach.

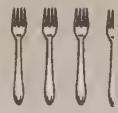
Reach Mary F. Pols at 925-945-4741 or mpols@cctimes.com.

Tamarindo

FROM PAGE C8

A few of the dishes need more than a little help. The starchy, flavorless corn of the Elote Asado (grilled corn on the cob with Parmesan cheese and aioli; \$4) made it clear that in real life not

TAMARINDO



(overall value rating of our visit; out of a possible 5)

FOOD

REVIEW VISIT ON JULY 23

- CUISINE: Regional Mexican.
- PRICES: \$4-\$49 (all small plates).
- CHECK: \$75 for three.
- HOME RUN: Tamales, Tamales, Tamales.
- STRIKEOUT: Torta Poblana.
- VEGETARIAN: Elote Asado, Guacamole.
- FREEBIES: None.
- BEVERAGES: Standard Mexican beers, excellent sangria, short, interesting wine lists mostly from Spain and South America.
- DESSERTS: Small selection of traditional Mexican desserts. All are housemade and outstanding.

Strangely normal sized in a world of minimeals, the hefty Torta Poblana (\$7) was a feature of a grilled chicken breast marinated by overly dark grill marks and acrid bits of burned food from an uncleaned grill.

all restaurants get their produce directly from an outdoor mercado.

Accompanied by a rather bland tomatillo sauce, the Empanadas de Camaron Estilo Nayarit (\$8) did have assertive shrimp flavor, but there was no evidence of the advertised serrano chile and green onions.

Strangely normal sized in a world of minimeals, the hefty Torta Poblana (\$7) was a feature of a grilled chicken breast marinated by overly dark grill marks and acrid bits of burned food from an uncleaned grill.

A small selection of classic Mexican desserts proved consist-

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "Suite Francaise," by Irene Nemirovsky. (Knopf, \$25.)
2. "The Ruins," by Scott Smith. (Knopf, \$24.95.)
3. "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen. (Algonquin, \$23.95.)
4. "The Keep," by Jennifer Egan. (Knopf, \$23.95.)
5. "The Night Gardener," by George Pelecanos. (Little, Brown, \$24.99.)
6. "Judge & Jury," by James Patterson and Andrew Gross. (Little, Brown, \$27.99.)
7. "Special Topics in Calamity Physics," by Marisha Pessl. (Viking, \$25.95.)
8. "Talk Talk," by T.C. Boyle. (Viking, \$25.95.)
9. "Pegasus Descending," by James Lee Burke. (Simon & Schuster, \$26.)
10. "The Messenger," by Daniel Silva. (Putnam, \$25.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "Fiasco," by Thomas E. Ricks. (Penguin, \$27.95.)
2. "The Omnivore's Dilemma," by Michael Pollan. (Penguin, \$26.95.)
3. "I Feel Bad About My Neck," by Nora Ephron. (Knopf, \$19.95.)
4. "Heat," by Bill Buford. (Knopf, \$24.95.)
5. "Marley & Me," by John Grogan. (William Morrow, \$21.95.)
6. "The Price of Privilege," by Madeleine Levine. (HarperCollins, \$24.95.)
7. "The Female Brain," by Louann Brizendine. (Morgan Road, \$24.95.)
8. "The Looming Tower," by Lawrence Wright. (Knopf, \$27.95.)
9. "Conservatives Without Conscience," by John Dean. (Viking, \$25.95.)
10. "Freakonomics," by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. (William Morrow, \$24.95.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Memory Keeper's Daughter," by Kim Edwards. (Penguin, \$14.)
2. "The History of Love," by Nicole Krauss. (Norton, \$13.95.)

Krauss. (Norton, \$13.95.)

3. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)
4. "Never Let Me Go," by Kazuo Ishiguro. (Vintage, \$14.)
5. "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," by Lisa See. (Random House, \$13.95.)
6. "March," by Geraldine Brooks. (Penquin, \$14.)
7. "The Alchemist (Updated)," by Paulo Coelho. (HarperSanFrancisco, \$13.95.)
8. "Case Histories," by Kate Atkinson. (Back Bay, \$13.95.)
9. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. (Picador, \$14.)
10. "Espresso Tales," by Alexander McCall Smith. (Anchor, \$13.95.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "An Inconvenient Truth," by Al Gore. (Rodale, \$21.95.)
2. "The Places in Between," by Rory Stewart. (Harvest, \$14.)
3. "Confessions of an Economic Hit Man," by John Perkins. (Plume, \$15.)
4. "The Tender Bar," by J.R. Moehringer. (Hyperion, \$14.95.)
5. "Running With Scissors," by Augusten Burroughs. (Picador, \$14.)
6. "The Tipping Point," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)
7. "1776," by David McCullough. (Simon & Schuster, \$18.)
8. "The Glass Castle," by Jeannette Walls. (Scribner, \$14.)
9. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
10. "Collapse," by Jared Diamond. (Penguin, \$17.)

Mass market paperback

1. "The Lincoln Lawyer," by Michael Connelly. (Warner, \$7.99.)
2. "The Devil Wears Prada," by Lauren Weisberger. (Anchor, \$7.99.)
3. "Crusader's Cross," by James Lee Burke. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
4. "Lieutenant," by James Patterson and Andrew Gross. (Warner, \$9.99.)
5. "Fire Sale," by Sara Paretsky. (Signet, \$9.99.)

— Northern California Independent Booksellers Association

As patrons chat, many in Spanish, over glasses of sangria and ceviche, I finish my last few bites of dense, not-too-sweet Flan de Coco (\$7) and realize I'm grateful that, despite a few flaws, Tamarindo is more than just a fantasy.

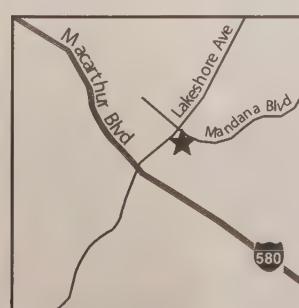
Milan Jackson is a professional Bay Area chef.

CORRECTION

A story and photo caption last week about the Berkeley Jazz Festival misspelled Mark McCleod. The jazz schedule also should have listed the phone number for La Note restaurant as 510-843-1535 and the Web site for Venus restaurant as www.venusrestaurant.net.

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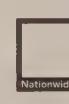
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Arts & Leisure

Friday, August 25, 2006



J.B. ALDERMAN
On DVDs

Timing is right for 'Lost City'

THE LOST CITY

Andy Garcia directed, scored the music and starred in this timely tale of 1959 revolutionary Cuba. "City" is exceptionally apropos, especially for those who are unfamiliar with precommunist Cuba, given Fidel Castro's ill health and the possibility of new leadership on the island for the first time in 48 years. We see the revolution from Garcia's perspective as a Havana night club owner (think of a suave Ricky Ricardo). The melodrama gets a bit thick with passionate speeches about democracy and awkward battle scenes. Frequent readers also know I have DVD A.D.D., and the long runtime on this film didn't help my condition. That said, Garcia's music is surprisingly good and creates a lush cinematic tapestry that is worth watching. (R: Violence and language). 2 hours and 23 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3 stars

Kids: N/A

Teens: 2 stars

Adults: 3 stars

Seniors: 3 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — A visually appealing look at the Cuban revolution.

V FOR VENDETTA

Another painfully relevant DVD, "V" is set in the not-too-distant future in a terrorist-plagued England. Under the banner of keeping Britain safe from terror, the kingdom has morphed into a fascist state that brands gays, Muslims and people of color as public safety threats. Based on a popular adult comic book, the DVD, starring a trying-too-hard-to-be-English Natalie Portman, delivers an unsightly condemnation of the West's current war on terror and subsequent curtailing of personal liberties. "V" also tries to meld this soapboxing with "Matrix" style action — an effort that fails.

Hugh Weaving plays the avenging cultured warrior who seeks to bring down the government with his own brand of theatrical anarchy. While stark good versus evil plays well in the comics, the lack of any gray is a shortcoming in the richer medium of film. (R: Violence and language). 2 hours and 12 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 2½ stars

Kids: N/A star

Teens: 3 stars

Adults: 2½ stars

Seniors: 1½ stars

Should you rent it? Yes — A unique, violent commentary on the war against terror.

THE SIMPSONS — EIGHTH SEASON

The eighth season of the best show on television is out to own on DVD, and it's well worth the \$50 price tag. Like an encyclopedia set, the Simpsons series deserves a spot in your library and is likely to be passed down through the generations as a treasured heirloom and resource. The ageless beauty of this twisted animated family comes from the combination of biting social satire with witty potty humor (no, that's not an oxymoron). If you are already a Simpsons fan, give into temptation and buy season eight. If you're just Simpsons curious, try these discs out as a rental. I promise you'll be smitten. (Unrated, but equivalent to PG for cartoon violence and mild language). 9 hours and 10 minutes.

Ratings (out of 4 stars):

Overall: 3½ stars

Kids: 3 stars

Teens: 3½ stars

Adults: 3½ stars

Seniors: 2 stars

Should you rent it? Yes — Comedy at its very best.

J.B. Alderman lives in Piedmont and can be reached at jason@alderman.net or via www.PhdVD.com.

Oakland is a lot closer than Mexico

By Milan Jackson

I have elaborate fantasies about Mexican cuisine. I dream of wandering through an open-air *mercado* brimming with fresh produce, crumbly farmers cheese and chickens grown tough and flavorful from running about pecking worms.

After sucking down a mango, I'll stumble on a small, family-run restaurant, an *antojeria*, meaning "little whims." It is a thoroughly modern place specializing in small, flavorful dishes prepared in the traditional way.

A dream, I know. But discovering Gloria Dominguez's Tamarindo in Oakland has at least brought the second half of this fantasy to life.

Located in a once desolate part of downtown, the one-year-old *antojeria* owes its existence to the city's revitalization of the nearby residential district. Eighth Street does not yet compare to Berkeley's 4th Street, but there are a good number of trendy shops and restaurants, old and new.

Tamarindo has found a niche among the handful of upscale Mexican restaurants in the Bay Area. Less formal than Dona Tomas (a pioneer of Mexican regional cuisine), and more strictly authentic than the nouvelle creations of Maya in San Francisco, Tamarindo reminds me of Albany's Fonda — with its pan-Latin small plates — without the distractingly hipster bar scene.

Dominguez started in the restaurant business with a Taqueria Salsa in Antioch. She created this friendly little restaurant with her architect son Alfonso, who designed the interior. Alfonso has made the most of a small space, leaving a rustic red brick wall exposed for artwork, including his own portrait of Maria Felix, the famous Mexican film actress of the 1940s and '50s. The funky white, legless chairs look as if they were designed for a preschool, providing a subtle signal that although Tamarindo's standards are high, you can just relax and have a good time.

By keeping portions small, Tamarindo sidesteps the expectation that Mexican food is about large plates of filling but mediocre food. Mulitas (\$7), two rich-tasting, freshly made corn tortillas are filled with just the right amount of melted jack cheese, Niman Ranch beef grilled to a still-juicy medium, guacamole and salsa fresca. Simple, and simply delicious.

Another winner is the Tamal Oaxaqueño (\$7). The banana leaf wrapper suffuses the masa with a distinctly tropical aroma, and that is distinctly Mexican — exotic and unmatched in any



DEAN COPPOLA/STAFF

ONE HOT TAMALE: Tamarindo has found its place among the Mexican restaurants in the Bay Area.

Although Tamarindo's standards are high, the atmosphere is casual. A brick wall is used to showcase art.

It tastes like it hopped straight from steamer to plate. The moist masa, chock-full of corn, wraps around an equally moist and savory braised pork filling spiked with red chile.

Those looking for more of a main course should be sure to ask for the list of specials. Conchinita Pibil (\$14) is traditionally a whole pig cooked in a pit by hot rocks. This is the sort of dish that is distinctly Mexican — exotic and unmatched in any

other cuisine. Tamarindo's version is stellar, and makes you wonder why there are not more Mexican restaurants at least trying to cook some of these wonderful regional specialties. It would be a tall order to expect the restaurant to cook a whole hog in a pit, but the pork is expertly spiced with achiote and, in keeping with Yucatan tradition, cooked in aromatic banana leaves. Steamed rice, enriched with chicken stock, adds heft.

See TAMARINDO, Page C7

This science exhibit is cool — really

Why It's cool: OK, we know this one sounds like homework, but trust us. The Hall of Health is cool. There are body parts, skeletons, hands-on activities and exhibits on the body's inner workings geared for kids ages 3 to 12. This month, the Children's Hospital-sponsored museum goes one step further with a traveling exhibit that should appeal to curious teens and grownups, too.

"Stem Cells & You" explores one of today's most controversial scientific topics. We've read about stem cells in the headlines — and wondered, perhaps, what flower stems had to do with politics. Ah, but stem cells are something else entirely. This exhibit uses eye-popping displays and interactive exhibits to explore the science and medical research applications behind the controversy.

What kids like: This is a nice, bite-size museum with plenty of gory body parts. And who's not interested in how a heart works?

What middle-schoolers and teens will like: Science buffs will be fascinated, of course, but even bio-phobic teens should enjoy uncovering the science at the heart of the controversy. Plus, there are beaupour brownie points to be gained in biology class if you can mouth off knowledgeably on the topic.

What parents like: Many people believe stem cells hold the key to curing Alzheimer's, diabetes and other conditions, including spinal cord injuries. But there's a potent ethical debate raging, too, and the Hall of



HALL OF HEALTH

THERE'S NOTHING pedantic here, but there are plenty of catchy displays and interactive exhibits to help you understand stem cells.

Health staff says the exhibit, which is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the University of Utah's Genetic Science Learning Center, explores every aspect of the issue. "Stem Cells & You" should provide plenty of zesty discussion fodder for the ride home.

Parking tips: There's a pay parking lot right around the block at 2061 Allston. Or take BART to the downtown Berkeley station and walk a block.

— Jackie Burrell, staff writer, jburrell@lectures.com

THE BASICS

WHERE: Hall of Health, 2230 Shattuck Ave., lower level, Berkeley.

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The stem cell exhibit runs now through Sept. 1.

TICKETS: \$3 per person; free for kids 3 and younger.

CONTACT: 510-549-1564 or www.hallofhealth.org.

SUSAN KURTZ
On the
Outsider
seen from

J. EAN DUBU
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Supplement to The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, August 25, 2006

Section D

GMC Yukon Denali is powerful and loaded with comfort

BY TOM KEANE
MOTOR MATTERS

For a high-quality sport utility loaded with refinement, check out the 2007 GMC Yukon Denali. It's expensive, but well worth the price.

Get the bad news out of the way: The base price of \$47,115, and 13 miles per gallon, city, 19 highway. The Denali had some nice options, the total is \$52,425.

The Yukon Denali has a very attractive design, with its iconic honeycomb grille, and chrome — including 20-inch wheels and 20-inch chrome trim. The exterior appearance leaves no doubt that the Denali is a high-quality vehicle.

The Denali is a full-size SUV with a boxed frame, coil over shock absorbers and rack-and-pinion steering. The seats are covered with a leather and the dash panel has some embossed burled walnut trim. The steering wheel also confirms this impression.

The Denali is an upscale SUV. The seats have 12-way power controls, and second row seats have a unique fold-and-tumble feature. The first and second row seats can fold down. Space between the second and third rows allows easy access to the third row.

The rearview mirrors can fold inward with the touch of a button, making it easier to open a tight garage door. The Denali also had the options of a sunroof and heated steering wheel with wood accent. The liftgate operated, and the storage space with the third-row seats upright. It easily folds down to create additional space. If the vehicle has a load of passengers, roof rails could be used to hold luggage.

I opened the door, the running board made it easy to climb into the driver's seat, where I could sit high, and have a view of the road. When I started the engine and began moving, I had no idea I was behind the wheel of a very



THE 2007
YUKON
DENALI
is a high-
quality sport
utility vehicle
loaded with
refinement.

MOTOR MATTERS

KEANE ON WHEELS

powerful vehicle. Under the hood is a Vortec 6.2-liter V8 engine that produces 380 horsepower and 417 pounds-foot of torque. Step on the accelerator and this GMC responds quickly. This power is connected to a new six-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission.

Making the ride more enjoyable, I had XM Satellite radio connected to a great sound system. The Bose audio system is an AM/FM MP3-capable radio with a six-disc changer and 10-speaker surround sound. Other nice features available include the following: navigational system, rear camera, and DVD-based entertainment system.

Another comfort about the Denali is knowing that I was surrounded by the industry's safest and most secure vehicle. The Denali has head curtain side airbags, plus the segment's first rollover indication sensors. This vehicle has been given a five-star rating, which is the highest rating given by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

GMC YUKON DENALI

Vehicle Type	Seven/eight-passenger, all-wheel drive full-size SUV
Suggested Retail	\$47,115
Price As Tested	\$52,425
Engine Type	V8 16-valve VVT w/FSI
Horsepower	380 @ 5,500 rpm
Torque	417 @ 4,400 rpm
Transmission	Six-speed Hydra-Matic
Wheelbase	116 inches
Height	75 inches
Curb Weight	5,835 pounds
Fuel Capacity	.26 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 13/19

plus the segment's first rollover indication sensors. This vehicle has been given a five-star rating, which is the highest rating given by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. I checked out the OnStar system by

simply touching a button on the rearview mirror. The attendant told me that OnStar now offers a diagnostic report. A person would advise me if my oil was low or the StabiliTrak system needed attention. That person would even be able to tell me if my

left rear tire needed a couple of pounds of additional air pressure.

Another advantage of OnStar is the General Motors Advanced Automatic Crash Notification system. Should I have an accident, OnStar could send emergency help. Again, the Denali is expensive, but dollar-for-dollar, it's money well spent.

INSIDE

Auto Doctor	Page D3
Classic Classics	Page D4
Spare Parts	Page D6

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1963 Corvette reflects significant year for couple

CLASSIC CLASSICS
BY VERN PARKER
MOTOR MATTERS

About a decade ago, after Norris and Betty Waterfield had attended several antique car shows as spectators, he casually asked her if she would like to get an antique car of their own so they could become active participants in the old-car hobby.

There are, after all, affordable antique automobiles. She replied in the affirmative. Upon further prodding, she told him that because 1963 was when he received his degree from a technical institute and she graduated from high school, the car should be a 1963 model to commemorate a significant year in their lives.

There are lots of very nice, desirable and economical 1963 models from which to choose. That's when she recalled her teen-age years when she would ride the bus past the Chevrolet showroom, gazing with envy at the beautiful and sleek Corvettes in the showroom. "Actually owning one was cost-prohibitive and a frivolous purchase really for a young person in those days," she says.

So the car of choice was decided — it was to be a 1963 Corvette. Betty did not realize that the 1963 Corvette was the first year of the Sting Ray models and beyond that, the only year with the now highly desirable, one-year-only, split rear window. The price of joining the old-car hobby just went up.

Not one to go back on his word, Waterfield began searching for an acceptable and affordable 1963 Corvette Sting Ray. He eventually located one in early 1998. It was a very presentable numbers-matching car with about 52,500 miles recorded on the odometer. He purchased the car in March 1998, loaded the 2,859-pound treasure onto his trailer and towed it 18 miles to his rural Virginia home.

Once the 14-foot, 7-inch-long Corvette was safely home, Waterfield set about investigating what exactly he had purchased. Like every other 1963 Corvette, it rode on a 98-inch wheelbase, was 69.6 inches wide and a low 49.8 inches high. Added to the base price of \$4,257, optional equipment on the Sting Ray included aluminum wheels, four-speed gear box, AM/FM radio, 327-cid, 340 horsepower, Sebring silver paint,

CLASSIC CLASSICS

positioning, and white sidewall tires. Research shows that chief stylist for the 1963 Corvette, William L. Mitchell, insisted on having the distinctive two-piece rear window over the objection of chief engineer Zora Arkus-Duntov. Both men eventually got their way, Mitchell for the first year of the Sting Ray, and Arkus-Duntov on every Corvette thereafter.

Those who went shopping for a new 1963 Corvette evidently couldn't decide on the coupe or the convertible. A total of 10,594 coupes were sold versus 10,919 convertibles.

The choice of colors was limited to Saddle tan, Silver blue, Daytona blue, Tuxedo black, Riverside red, Emine white and Sebring silver. By selecting the silver color, the original owner joined 3,517 others who were given the privilege of paying a premium for the color of their choice.

The black interior of the Corvette needed only new carpeting. Additionally, Waterfield discovered the engine was correct, but the color it was painted was not. Years of accumulated grime, grease and who-knows-what, including paint, on the engine block were rapidly removed with the unlikely help of Easy Off oven cleaner. The surgically clean engine now sports the correct color, as well as the appropriate chrome options.

Since acquiring the Corvette eight years ago, the Waterfields have continually worked to bring the car back to like-new condition. They have even named their Corvette "CD" because Waterfield explains, "It soon became evident that this awesome machine was going to gain far more interest than any certificate of deposit."

For your car to become the subject of the Classic Classics column, send a photo (frontal 3/4 view) plus brief details and phone number to Vern Parker, 2221 Abbottsford Drive, Vienna, VA 22181.



NORRIS AND BETTY WATERFIELD have named their Corvette "CD" because, Waterfield explains, "It soon became this awesome machine was going to gain far more interest than any certificate of deposit."

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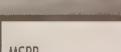


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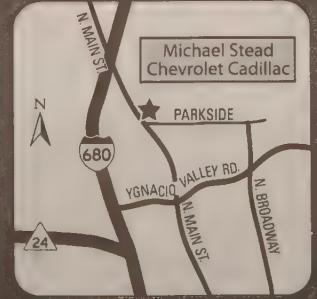
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SPARE PARTS

Top pick: The 2006 Highlander Hybrid (priced in the \$35,000 to \$40,000 range) is a well-rounded sport utility vehicle, according to Consumer Reports. The magazine reports that it has quick acceleration, a comfortable ride, and third-row seating. Its 22 miles per gallon is impressive for a midsize SUV. This hybrid (and its near twin, the Lexus RX 400h) is the only SUV to achieve the magazine's excellent overall rating.

Electronic stability control:

This technology could prevent nearly one-third of all fatal crashes and reduce the risk of rolling over by as much as 80 percent. That represents a lot of lives. An extension of anti-lock brake technology, electronic stability control is designed to help drivers retain control of their vehicles during high-speed maneuvers or on slippery roads.

Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

Feeling Blue? The color blue for

cars is making a comeback. Green is so yesterday. And red is moving out of its lowbrow yellow stage into a richer, blue period. Or so says a General Motors team that specializes in paint color. Research shows that nearly 40 percent of consumers will defect to another brand if they can't find the color they want — and GM is not about to miss out on sales simply because it picked the wrong paint color for a new Cadillac or Chevrolet.

Source: The Detroit News.

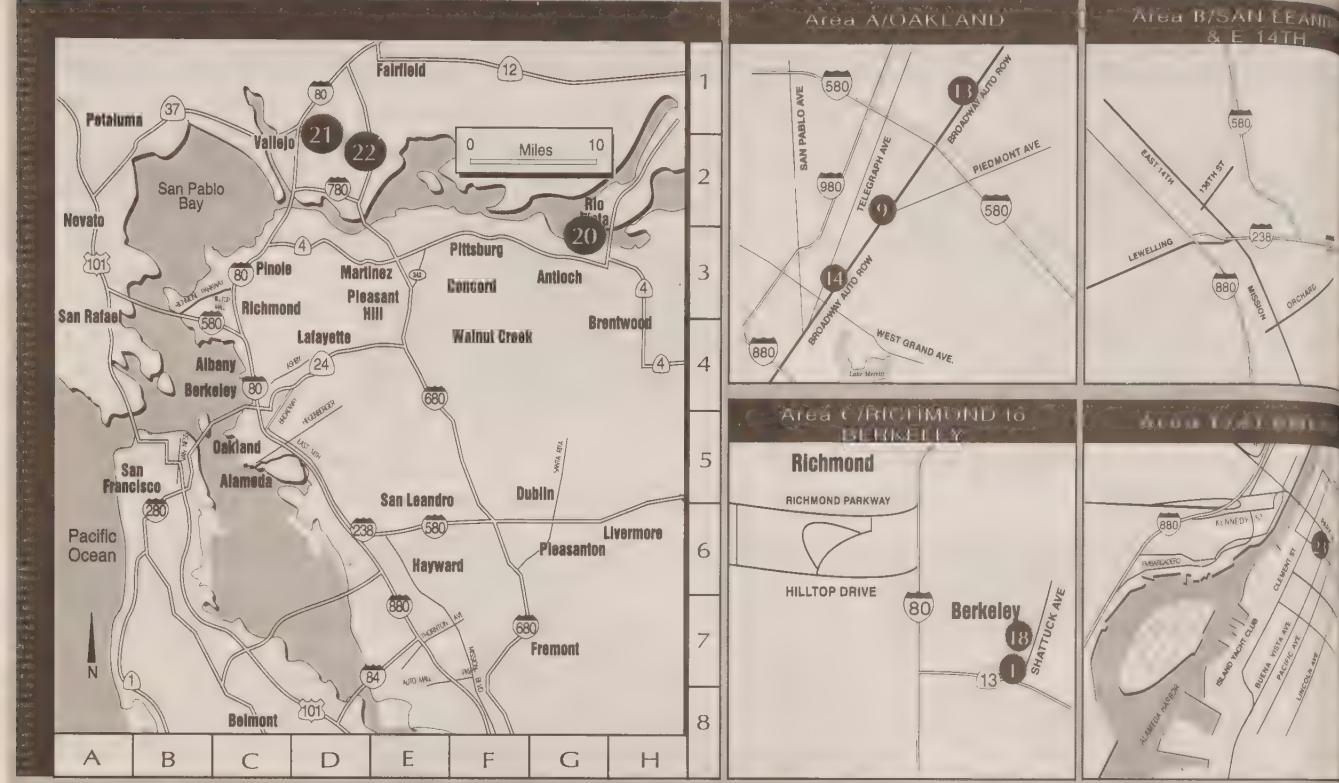


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Public Notice

of El Cerrito To Have Model Year End Clearance

CA - Over the next few weeks, Honda of El Cerrito will be preparing new 2006 models. In order to ensure we have sufficient room for the components of new 2007 models, Honda of El Cerrito will be closing all remaining inventory.

El Cerrito plans to sell all remaining inventory. At this time, we can no longer make room for 2007 models we have. We decided to close our 2006 Honda of El Cerrito and drastically lower

our Model Year End clearance. We are not limited to new 2006 Honda Civic, CR-V, minivan, Pilot, SUV, & Element. They will be priced for immediate sale.

As our Model Year End clearance continues through summer, our customers are overwhelmed

for, you will receive our best quote.

Period.

Absolutely no back and forth haggling, just our best price. This no-hassle approach is the reason why our customers response was so positive. They were very happy to just be able to stop in, choose their

vehicle, enjoy no haggle pricing, and then drive off in a new Honda.

It's simple. We can help anyone, in any situation, drive home in a new Honda. Upside down in a car, no money down, want a low APR, or just simply need lower payments, we will work with you to help us with our inventory.

said Montana.

Honda of El Cerrito's

2006 Model Year End

Clearance is going on

now. Hurry in these

special clearance prices

are only available on

remaining 2006 models

in stock, while supplies last.

This is also a special time

to get the best value for

your trade in. We are

currently in need of high

quality used cars, so to

help with the purchase of

any new 2006 Honda.

Honda of El Cerrito will

provide the highest trade

in value the market will

bear on your current

vehicle, even if you are not

in the market for a new vehicle.

Honda of El Cerrito is located at

11755 San Pablo Avenue in El

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the 80 Freeway or call us at 888-

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2007 Honda Fit Sport

2006 Honda Civic EX Sedan

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haggling, just our best price. This

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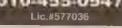
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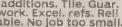
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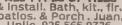


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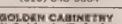
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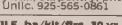
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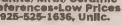
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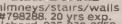
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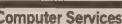
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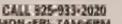
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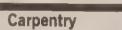
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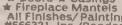
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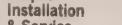
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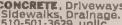
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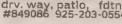
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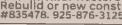
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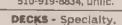
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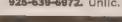
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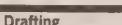
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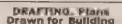
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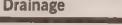
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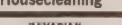
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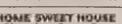
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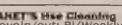
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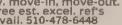
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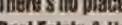
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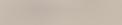
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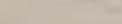
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Pizza alfresco: Put pies on grill for taste of outdoor

BY TERESA J. FARNEY
THE GAZETTE

It's blistering out, and you don't want to crank up the oven, so you turn to your favorite summertime appliance: the grill. But what you really crave is a homemade pizza, a dish that begs for a hellishly hot oven.

A conflict? Nope — you can grill that pizza. Do it right, and you'll end up with a delicious, crispy crust with a chewy inside and a slightly smoky pie that's so good, you'll be grilling pizza even in winter.

The idea of grilling pizzas is a spinoff of those expensive, wood-fired ovens with thick stone floors. Chef Ben Davis, co-owner of Passionate Palate in Denver, has one of those fancy ovens at his cooking school.

"The advantages of a pizza oven are that the intense heat stored by the stone floor is transmitted directly to the crust of the pizza, giving you a crisper and speedier pizza," he said. "The cooking is also very even with a stone, as the temperature is very uniform across the surface of the stone."

But these ovens are not for everyone. They cost thousands of dollars and require almost 24 hours of smoldering wood to get them to the 500 degrees required for baking.

That stone floor concept, however, easily translates to a much cheaper device for the home cook: a pizza-grilling stone.

To duplicate a pizza cooked in a wood-fired oven, we used one of the stones and also tried cooking directly on the grill grates. Here's a look at both methods.

Pizza-grilling stone

We spotted the VillaWare Pizza-Grill (\$99.99, at Chef's Catalog retail store and Williams-Sonoma) and took one home for a test drive. Basically, it's a porous clay stone within a raised stainless-steel frame de-

signed to use in kitchen ovens could be used on the grill. From our experience, you're taking your chances. Here's what happened:

Davis suggested placing the oven-only pizza stone on an inverted baking sheet, then placing the assembly on the grill before heating it on high for about 40 minutes, or until hot to the touch.

"The baking sheet should still allow for the stone to heat up well and also should prevent cracking of the stone from exposure to the direct flame of the grill," he said.

We gave his method a try and the stone still broke.

However, Kimberly Lord Stewart, a Denver-based food writer, said she uses Davis' method all the time without any problems.

"Just be sure you place the stone on a cold grill and then do the heating process," she said.

Well, that's what we did — and the stone still broke.

No matter which grilling stone you use, don't get too carried away with the pizza toppings. They will make the dough heavy and awkward to move onto the stone.

Chef's Catalog sells a pizza peel (a large wooden paddle) that can be used to transport the pizza to the stone and remove it when it's done. You can also use an inverted, rimless baking sheet, as we did, with fine results.

Pizza right on the grill

We went to grillmeister Steven Raichlen, author of several cookbooks including "How To Grill," for his advice about grilling pizza. He's not so hot on the stone.

"Actually, for the best results, you don't need a stone at all," he said. "I like to drap the dough (well-oiled) right on the grill grate. Cooked this way, the crust puffs and blisters in an interesting way, and you certainly get an interesting

you say? If you're not feeling ambitious enough to make it from scratch, use store-bought frozen pizza or bread dough. They work just fine.

Or take a tip from Kathy Bousquet, owner of Barbeque Mercantile, who makes grilled pizza every weekend: Use store-bought, ready-to-cook pizza.

Want to have more fun grilling pizza? Invite a bunch of your friends over and let them make personalized minipizzas. Measure out balls of dough (about 3 ounces each), line up five or six topping choices and let them cut loose.

You can either cook them on a pizza-grilling stone or directly on the grill.

PEPPERONI AND CHEESE PIZZA

1 envelope active dry yeast
1/2 teaspoon granulated sugar
2/3 cup warm water (105-115 degrees)

2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for rolling out dough
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing crust

Cornmeal
2 cups pizza sauce
1/2 pound pepperoni slices
2 cups grated mozzarella cheese

Procedure:

In medium bowl, combine yeast, sugar and water. Stir briefly and let stand until foamy, 5-10 minutes. Add 2 cups flour, the salt, pepper and 2 tablespoons olive oil. Stir until dough holds together. Transfer to lightly floured work surface and knead until smooth, 5-10 minutes. Shape into ball and place in lightly oiled bowl. Turn ball to coat surface with oil. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and set aside in warm place until dough doubles in size, 1-1/2 hours.

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PEPPERONI AND CHEESE PIZZA

1 (9- to 10-inch) unbaked pizza crust

Cornmeal

1/2 teaspoon olive oil

1/2 teaspoon minced garlic

1/2 cup (2 ounces) shredded whole-milk mozzarella cheese

1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion

3 tablespoons pitted, coarsely chopped kalamata olives

3 tablespoons sliced pepperoncini, well-drained

1/3 cup (1 1/4 ounces) crumbled feta cheese

Procedure:

Place pizza crust on back of cookie sheet or on pizza peel that has been sprinkled with a generous layer of cornmeal. Lightly brush pizza dough with olive oil. Sprinkle with garlic. Top with Parmesan. Sprinkle with fontina cheese. Arrange tomato slices over cheese.

Slide onto preheated PizzaGrill and bake 5-10 minutes, or until crust is crisp and lightly browned. Check bottom of pizza once or twice while baking to be sure it is not too dark; rotate pizza for even color, if desired. Sprinkle with basil just before removing pizza from grill.

Makes 4 servings.

Source: VillaWare PizzaGrill BBQ Pizza Maker



SPRAY YOUR GRILL WITH COOKING SPRAY before it heats up to help the dough. After it's finished, the pizza easily lifts off the grill with a spatula and a

CAROL LAWRENCE

and pat dry with paper towels.

2 tablespoons oil in a

pan over medium heat until golden brown. 2

for garlic with a meat mallet. 2

over medium heat until

caramelized to a deep

6-10 minutes, adding

per to taste. You may

heat as onion cooks

on a platter. 2

heat, adding remaining

oil, if needed. 2

on paper towels and

and pepper. Quickly

on both sides.

Set up grill for

grilling (see side box).

charcoal grill direct

heat zone to high

to cook, brush and

Generously oil the

sheet. Place half

of the baking

rectangle to

form a

rectangle that is 1/2

Repeat with remaining

with plastic

Starting from

using both hands

dough rectangle an

over heated

a minute or so, un

will crisp and

puff slightly. Using

brush and firm

Brush uncooked

Using tongs and

crust over a hot

until this side, too

and darker, about

crust back to a con

and brush top with a

of cheese slices on

half of frie

caramelized onion

olives and capers. 2

cheese. When be

cooked, browned and

utes more, slide pizza

top for serving. 2

arugula and sea

pepper. Cut into pie

as it comes off grill.

Makes 2 (9-by-12

8 servings

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form a

rectangle that is 1/2

Repeat with remaining

with plastic

Starting from

using both hands

dough rectangle an

over heated

a minute or so, un

will crisp and

puff slightly. Using

brush and firm

Brush uncooked

Using tongs and

crust over a hot

until this side, too

and darker, about

crust back to a con

and brush top with a

of cheese slices on

half of frie

caramelized onion

olives and capers. 2

cheese. When be

cooked, browned and

utes more, slide pizza

top for serving. 2

arugula and sea

pepper. Cut into pie

as it comes off grill.

Makes 2 (9-by-12

8 servings

and pat dry with paper towels.

2 tablespoons oil in a

pan over medium heat until golden brown. 2

for garlic with a meat mallet. 2

over medium heat until

caramelized to a deep

6-10 minutes, adding

per to taste. You may

heat as onion cooks

on a platter. 2

heat, adding remaining

oil, if needed. 2

on paper towels and

and pepper. Quickly

Ready-to-use grout makes it easy to install beautiful tile or stone

the joints between tiles — contributes to the finished beauty of the tile or stone surface. But mixing and installing traditional grouts can be problematic for the inexperienced tile setter.

"Grout that is incorrectly mixed and applied can lead to blotchy, uneven color that compromises the look of the tile installation. And, after it's installed, grout can stain and pick up dirt," says Rachel Gibbons, brand manager for the TEC brand at Specialty Construction Brands, Inc., Arlington Heights, Ill., the leading brand of installation systems for tile and stone.

TEC has addressed these concerns by launching a revolutionary, ready-to-use grout product called AccuColor Easy that can be used right

from the bucket. Because it's pre-mixed, it offers virtually error-proof results, eliminating mixing errors that can alter the look of the installed tile.

The unique patented formulation includes stain-blocking technology to protect against most common household stains. The stain resistance is built right into the grout, so there is no need to apply an additional protective grout sealer, saving homeowners time and money. AccuColor Easy also contains inhibitors that protect the grout from mold and mildew growth, making it easier to maintain the grout. Finally, the product delivers highly durable grout joints, providing a lifetime of performance.

"After you select the tile or stone, it is just as important to consider the

grout because it has a big impact on the lasting beauty of the surface," Gibbons says.

A warranty provides extra peace of mind about the grout's performance. AccuColor Easy is backed by a limited lifetime warranty against staining, cracking and fading.

AccuColor Easy is packaged in a handy half-gallon pail. It comes in eight popular colors.

For more information, visit www.tecspecialty.com.



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must-have tool for laying down tile

ARA
We are certain home improvement projects do-it-yourselfers do on a regular basis — not only to save money, but for the satisfaction they get out of doing them. The most popular, painting down floor tile, well that's a whole other story. There's nothing tricky about it. All you have to do is to do the things you don't want to do like window trim and baseboards, and go to town. But laying down tile, well that's a whole other story. Even experienced contractors can a project that can "really be a pain." First you have to spread adhesive, then take the time to lay down each tile as you move your way around the room, and eventually have to spend more time taking all those tiny spacers out. Fortunately by having to do that daily basis, a contractor like Curtis Claxton from St. Croix in the Virgin Islands came

up with an invention that has made the process a lot easier. The Set & Go Floor Tile Setter, manufactured by Massachusetts-based Prazzi USA, is a hand-held device that allows you to lay down an entire floor in a fraction of the time it took the old way.

All you have to do is adjust the tool's sliding rulers to the size of your floor tile (the tool works for tiles sized from 8 to 16 inches) and lock them in place with the attached screws. Next, secure the spacers you want to use to the underside of the tool, and start laying tile. You can lay down up to three of tiles at a time.

Set-&-Go Spacers are available for different tile patterns in 1/4" or 1/8" spacer widths. The Standard (1/4") spacers come with each kit. Also available are "T" spacers that allow you to lay tiles in a staggered pattern, as well as against flat surfaces; "L" spacers that enable you to space between square corners, against straight edges and in the

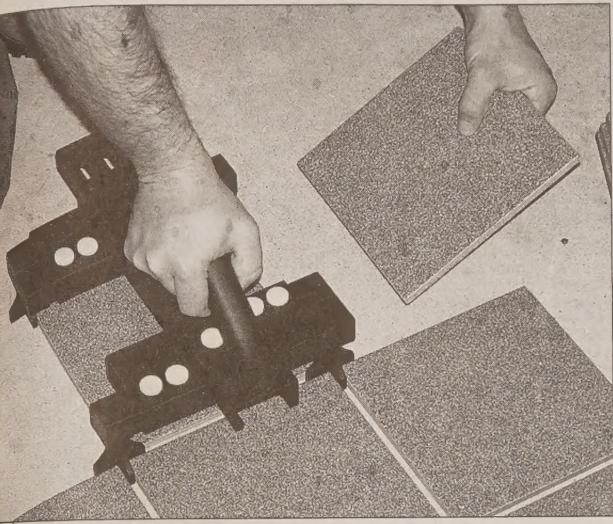
middle of square areas; and flat spacers that let you space between octagonal tiles, angled cut tiles and against straight edges.

After you tap the tiles into place in the thin set, all you have to do to continue is carefully lift the tool and put it down over the next tile allowing you to set 3 more tiles.

Jeff Asphey of Kittery, Maine, discovered the tool when he was about half-way through a project in his kitchen. "After purchasing the Set & Go I was able to complete the project in half the time because it was so much easier. I would highly recommend this tool for anybody who plans on laying a new tile floor," he says.

The Set & Go Floor Tile Setter is sold in home improvement stores and is also available direct from the manufacturer. To learn more about the device, or to place an order, log on to www.prazziusa.com or call 800-262-0211.

— Courtesy of ARA Content



SET & GO FLOOR TILE SETTER can make laying down floor tile a quick and easy job.

Local Sports

Local Sports, Local News, Local People.

Our reporters work long and hard to bring you the news that affects you and your neighborhood. Our neighborhood.

We're in this together.



ills Newspapers Lifestyle: A great resource for information you can use.

You Do the Math.

$$0 + 0 =$$

Mohawk's Summer Sale Means No Payments & No Interest Until July 4, 2007.*

This is no ordinary summer sale, but a full-scale national promotion sponsored by Mohawk, one of the country's premier names in floorcovering — and we mean every floorcovering, from carpet to vinyl, hardwood to tile. This not-ordinary sale means that, from now until September 30, every Mohawk product in every Floor Store location is on sale at the rather generous terms you see above. What you see below are just a few examples of what we're talking about. So start with these sale prices, let zero represent payments, add zero again for interest, and amortize the whole thing until next summer. We think you're going to like the answer. And we won't even make you show your work.

Broadloom Carpet

Strike Back

High Style & High Affordability

Reg. \$21.99/Six Colors

\$15.99

Square Yard
Installed with Pad

SP555

Thick Carpet and Fat Value

Reg. \$32.99

\$25.99

Square Yard
Installed with Pad

Added Pizzaz

With Scotchgard Protection

Reg. \$23.99/10-Yr. Warranty

\$20.99

Square Yard
Installed with Pad

Karastan Firense*

Carpet Doesn't Get More Durable

Reg. \$36.99/Stock Only

\$29.99

Square Yard
Installed with Pad

*Available in Richmond & Pittsburg Only

Very Limited Time Area Rug Special

Every size, color, and style from traditional to contemporary, room-size to hall runners. These collections are from the country's top mills and include famous-name designers. Reduced up to

50%

Area rugs in Richmond and Dublin stores only.

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Mazzini Porcelain

12" x 12" Tiles in 4 Colors

Reg. \$2.99/Stock Only

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Look of Slate, Upkeep of Stone

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Very Special Purchase:

Egyptian Stone — In Lux-

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Swear it's Stone — Up to 20" Tiles

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Hardwood

Sheridan Plank Oak

Engineered for Perfect Installation

Reg. \$6.99/Stock Only

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Brindisi Plank

A True Must-See for Designers

Reg. \$12.99/Stock Only

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Essex Oak

5" Plank with Registered Grain

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Sale Ends Sunday, August 20.

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GREG AND ANNE ROTHERS' STRAW BALE HOME in Parkville, Mo., has 3,200 square feet, including the finished lower level, above. Don and Cathy Warring built their straw bale home near Paola, Kan., by themselves, right. The low wall around the patio is made of recycled aluminum cans covered in plaster. Trees cut down on the property form posts inside and outside the home.



Houses built from straw bales are sturdy, Earth-friendly

BY CINDY HOEDEL

KANSAS CITY STAR

Not even the strongest winds will blow these houses down.

Straw bale construction is a safe, environmentally sound and handsome alternative to traditional framing. The natural building method has moved beyond its hippie-dippy image and is gaining acceptance among mainstream homebuilders and architects.

Today's straw bale homes are actually post-and-beam structures that have straw bales in the walls. Rebar runs through the bales to hold them together, or an external framework of rebar or bamboo is held together by wires that run through the bales. Chicken wire or metal lath secured to the outside of the bales is the base for plastering.

Straw is cheap, about \$2 per bale, and about 800 bales are required for a 2,000-square-foot

home. But the labor required to erect the walls, cut electrical and plumbing channels in them and apply two to three coats of plaster should not be underestimated.

"It's a lot of work," said Don Warring, who designed and built a straw bale home near Paola, Kan., with his wife, Cathy. With the help of more than 80 friends at a house-raising party, the Warrings got all the straw bales stacked in a day. But completing the project took the couple 18 months of working every weekend.

Don Warring loves the solidity of his house. "There's an ambience living in it that I just don't get from a stick frame and wallboard type house. It's made by hand with your friends. It's a spiritual thing, actually," he said.

By doing all the work except the concrete flatwork themselves, the Warrings were able to build their 1,700-square-foot home for just

\$43,000. If you hire a builder, a straw bale home will cost the same or more per square foot than a traditional home. Warring says if he had to do it over, he would still do the construction himself but would hire an architect.

"An architect will bring things to the table you don't realize, so you don't have to change things as you go along. An architect is familiar with the systems you are dealing with," Warring said.

As far as energy efficiency, straw bale walls provide good insulation but not better than other options, environmental chemist Rick Robson said. Robson, who now works for Hallmark, used to be a full-time builder specializing in energy-efficient homes.

"Straw bale has a higher R-value (insulation rating) than standard stick construction with fiberglass insulation," Robson said. "But other systems such as structural insulated

panels (SIP) and insulating concrete forms (ICF) offer comparable performance."

And, like any home, a straw bale home's overall energy efficiency is greatly affected by doors, windows and roofing.

The real "green" appeal of building with straw bales, Robson says, is that they are readily available locally and are renewable.

Licensed architect Greg Rother became interested in straw bale construction after reading an article about it in *Fine Homebuilding* magazine a few years ago. Rother has designed and built two straw bale homes in the Kansas City area, including his own home in Parkville.

"Straw is a natural byproduct of the local harvest," Rother said. Unlike ICF and SIP walls, very little energy is used to produce straw bales, he said.

In addition, straw bale homeowners are drawn to the look of the characteristic rounded corners.

"It's worked by hand. It has a shaped, human quality," Rother said.

Carolyn Studdard agrees. She and her husband, Gary, hired Rother to build their 3,400-square-foot straw bale ranch house in Gardner in Johnson County.

"I love the thick walls," Carolyn Studdard said. Studdard uses the deep window wells to display flower pots and art work. The couple's cats love lounging in them, too.

Jen Carlson's do-it-yourself experiences building a straw bale home in Lincoln, Neb., eventually led her to open a business called Straw, Sticks and Bricks. The company, which has retail stores in Lincoln and Kansas City, sells "green" building materials and consults on environmentally friendly building practices.

Carlson loves the sound-insulating quality of the thick walls of her home, which she shares with her husband, Josh Shear, and their 5-month-old son, August.

"It's a nice, quiet, peaceful house," Carlson said.

But practical reasons are not the primary motivation for most straw bale builders.

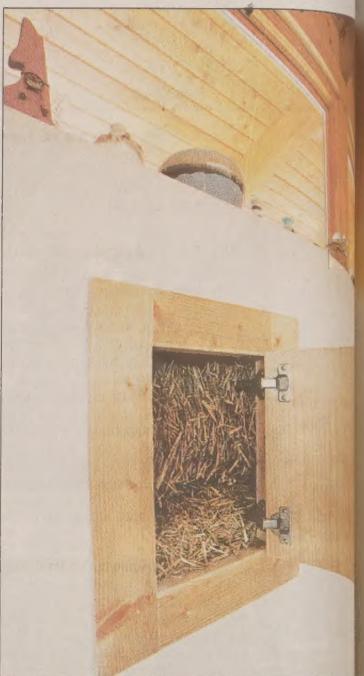
"Part of the appeal is that it's unique," Rother said. "I like doing something different from what other people are doing."

Resources

■ Straw, Sticks and Bricks, 115 W. 18th St., 816-421-7171, www.strawsticksandbricks.com; sells earthen plaster for interior walls, as well as other natural building materials; also offers planning and consultation for straw bale builders.

■ Kansas State Engineering Extension, 800-578-8898; offers publications about straw bale construction.

■ California Straw Building Association, www.strawbuilding.org.



THE "TRUTH WINDOW" REVEALS the straw inside Carolyn and Gary Studdard's straw bale house in Gardner. Straw bale construction is a safe, environmentally sound and handsome alternative to traditional framing.

answers to frequently asked questions and technical information.

■ Last Straw, www.thelaststraw.org; Quarterly journal, Web site with articles and links to related sites.

■ "House of Straw" by U.S. Department of Energy, out of print but available online at www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/components/envelope/finishing/strawbale.html.

Bookshelf

■ "The Straw Bale House" by Athena Swentzell Steen, Bill Steen and David Bainbridge (Real Goods Independent Living book, \$30). How to build with straw and advice for dealing with building codes departments and insurers plus instructions and diagrams.

■ "Serious Straw Bale" by Paul Lacienski and Michel Bergeron (Real Goods Solar Living book, \$30). Detailed comparisons of different building techniques and climate-specific design considerations. FAQs about straw bale construction.

Frequently asked questions

Isn't there a huge fire danger?

No. Bales are tightly compressed, so not enough air is present for the straw to burn easily. In addition, the bales are encased in two or three

coats of plaster, which is fire-resistant. Tests have shown that straw walls have more than 100 years of fire resistance.

Will the straw decompose?

Dry straw does not decompose.

What about pests?

Like hay, does not have nutritive value to pests.

Also, pests have a hard time traveling through straw bales than through wood framing.

What about codes?

Permit to build a straw bale home can be easy or frustrating.

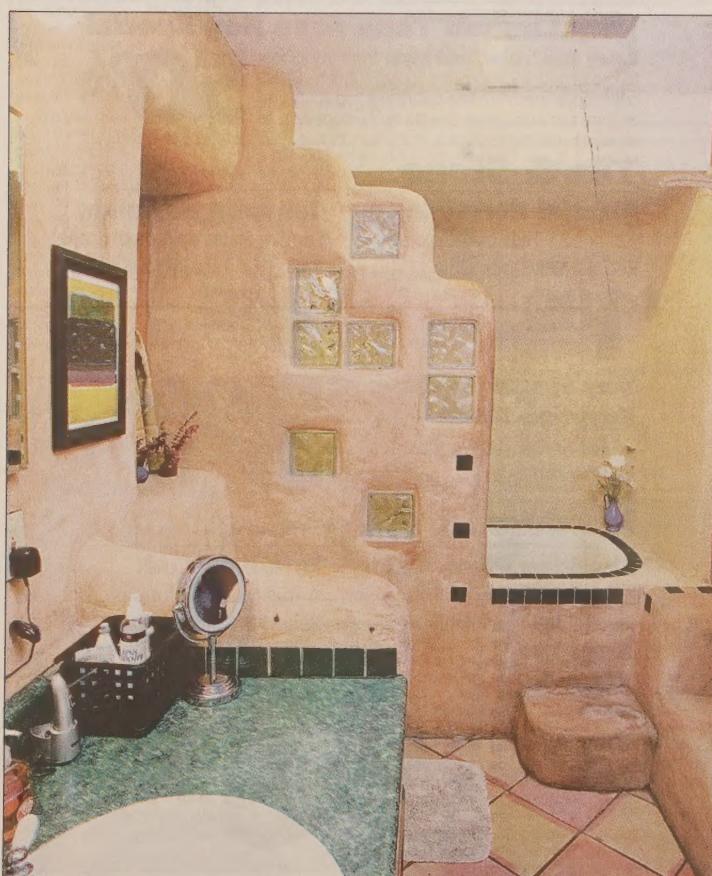
Depending on whether your department is familiar with straw bale construction or willing to learn more information you will offer links to research you during the permitting process.

What about insurance?

Insurance companies are not yet experienced with straw bale homes.

Once you find a company willing to do the research for the policy, you will be able to insure your straw bale home.

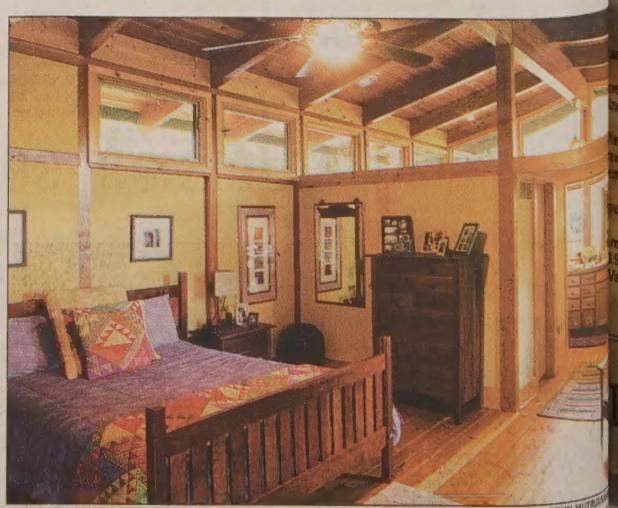
Sources: www.thelaststraw.org



THE WARRING FAMILY'S STRAW BALE HOME in Paola, Kan., has a cool bath capitalizing on the flexibility of the plaster walls.



IN THE STUDDARD'S STRAW BALE HOME has a ranch floor plan with a "storm watching room," accessed by a circular stairway that provides a vertical element in the center.



THE ROTHERS STRAW BALE HOME features clerestory windows that provide natural light and views of tree tops.